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Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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San Jose fire engulfs house

In this photo provided on the Facebook page of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, a fire engulfs a wooden, abandoned building in San Jose directly behind Dolphins Wholesale store. No casualties were reported. DFEMS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire last Saturday fully engulfed a wooden, abandoned building in San Jose directly behind Dolphins Wholesale store. No casualties were reported.

According to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the department responded to a report about a house on fire around 10:03am last Saturday and the fire was contained shortly after.

Investigators later confirmed that the building is a single-story abandoned wooden structure and the cause of the fire is still undetermined. The scene is still being processed by DFEMS fire investigators. There have been several incidents of grass fires in the last few days due to a persistent drought across the region. There has been no word if the house fire and grass fires are related.

See FIRE on Page 4

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE
Over 30 men help in the annual mounting of the cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochau as several Roman Catholic devotees look on during the annual Good Friday trek.
ERWIN ENCINARES

USCIS: Marijuana violation will bar US naturalizations

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify that violations of federal controlled substance law, including violations involving marijuana, are generally a bar to establishing good moral character for naturalization, even where that conduct would not be an offense under state law.

The policy guidance also clarifies

See USCIS on Page 4

Confirmed dengue case in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services has been notified of one confirmed case of imported dengue fever in Guam.

RELATED NEWS
Measles watch for Pacific nations. **PAGE 4**

Dengue fever is a disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses (DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3, or DENV 4).

The viruses are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti*, the primary transmitter, or vector, of dengue viruses, and this particular mosquito is not found in Guam. However, the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albop-*

See DENGUE on Page 4

Explosions kill at least 138 in Sri Lanka

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI and KRISHAN FRANCIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)— At least 138 people were killed and hundreds more hospitalized from injuries in near simultaneous blasts that rocked three churches and three

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INSIDE

NATION
20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting.
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ASIA
Devotees are nailed to wooden crosses in a gory Good Friday ritual in the Philippines.
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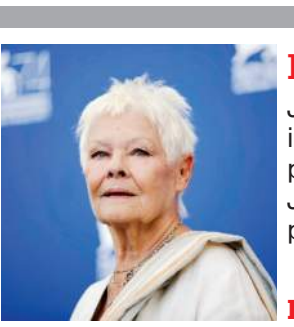

LIFE & STYLE
Judi Dench is back in the world of espionage—but not as James Bond's unflappable spy chief, M.
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Local

A shower of eggs and prizes at McDonald's Egg Hunt

Max Chang, who found the silver egg, receives his award and poses for a picture with the organizers.

PHOTOS BY REICA RAMIREZ

Rodney Jr. Pinaula, who found the golden egg, has his picture taken with his awards.

Iyannah Diaz Agulto, winner of the "Most Number of Eggs Found," poses for a picture.

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

More than 150 children showed up last Black Saturday to participate in the McDonald's Easter Egg Hunt, and won prizes for, among other, the most number of eggs found, specific eggs, and even the most creative Easter egg basket.

All the participants were given "Be Our Guest" cards, which gave away free food such as french fries, Happy Meals, and more.

There were also winners for the egg hunt such as the "Silver Egg Winner," "Golden Egg Winner," "Most Number of Eggs Found" and "Most Creative Easter Egg Basket."

Max Chang won for finding the silver egg; Rodney Jr. Pinaula found the golden egg. And with 48 eggs found, Iyannah Diaz Agulto won the "Most Number of Eggs Found."

The egg hunt also featured the "Most Creative Easter Egg Basket" competition, won by Louie Mathew Achas. His handmade basket was both creative and eco-friendly; it reused plastic bottles.

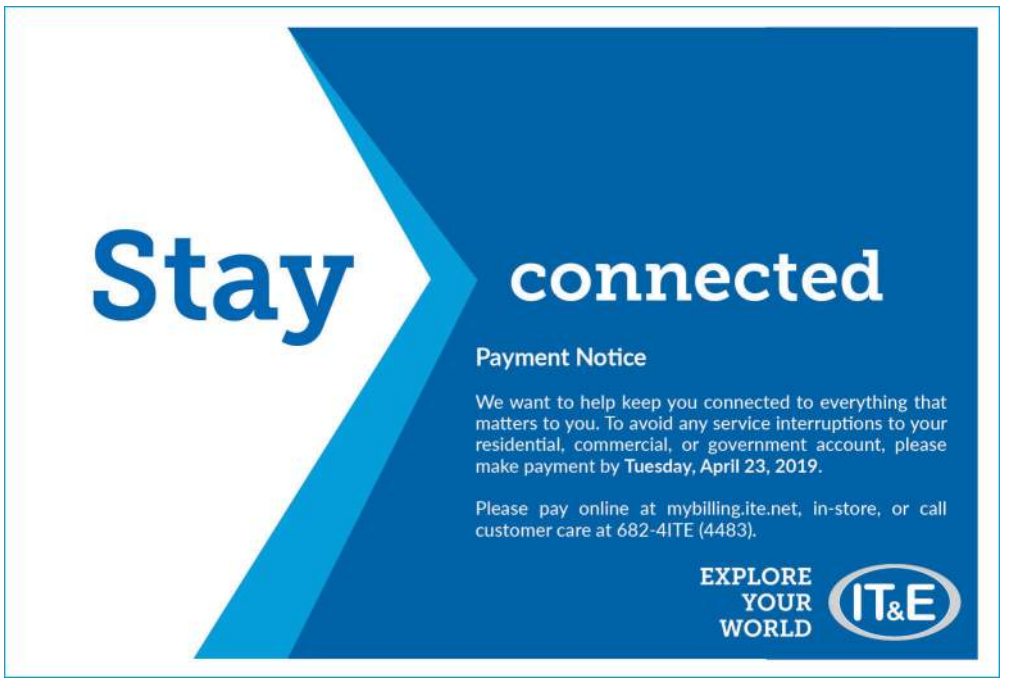
The judges, Power 99 general manager James Nelson and IT&E art director Norman Del Rosario, chose Achas' entry because not only was it creative but it also highlighted the importance of recycling, considering that Earth Day is just around the corner.

According to McDonald's executive assistant, Mabel Ayuyu Glenn, this new category was a way to incorporate other activities that can "showcase some of the creative talents of our young kids."

Glenn said they brought back the egg hunt because they wanted to do something for children to enjoy. The event was "only for ages 3-5 because it was more manageable to ensure the safety of all the kids," she added.

Glenn thanked Power 99, Yaong Corp., and the Rotaract Club for supporting the event. "Thank you to all our supporters…and we hope to continue to do this every year if we can," she added.

Louie Mathew Achas, winner of the "Most Creative Easter Egg Basket," takes a picture with his basket along with the organizers and judges.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Attao: Legislative funding to go down for the rest of FY

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said each member of the Legislature are allocated $90,000 every fiscal year, which gives them a monthly budget of $7,500. Sadly, that $7,500 monthly allocation—that they use to pay for their personnel and staff and daily operations—will be reduced for the remainder of fiscal year 2019.

Attao said this was what the Office of Management and Budget told them when they recently met with Virginia Villagomez, the OMB special assistant. "The allocation [for the Legislature] is in the budget. …the budget for each member as per [fiscal year] 2019 budget allotment is just like 2018. It's $90,000 per member. Nothing more than that. There are no other funds that are on the side to get additional funds from."

Attao gave this clarification to belie information that says contrary. "That's for the whole [fiscal year]. That's all under the operations so we can pay for personnel and use money for our daily operations. That's it, there's no additional money contrary to what other people out there say. We live within those means and it will decrease further after the cuts."

The Legislature, in separate responses by Attao and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' communication, said they would comply with the administration's implementation of a 5-percent reduction in their appropriations. "The House and Senate actions will be coordinated to assure constitutional requirements of equal allocations to each member."

On the House side, Attao said he and the other 19 members have different ways of paying their staff and office spending. "Some may pay $3,000 or $4,000 in personnel costs; it depends on the member you ask. Every single member of the Legislature has to get the exact amount of money, because that is in the [CNMI] Constitution."

Attao said, however, that even if they agreed to the cuts for the rest of fiscal year 2019, the Executive Branch should inform them ahead of time and not implement it abruptly without prior information. "The cuts will be for the rest of the [fiscal year]. Technically, we already started with the cuts at 5 percent. But, when they did it…we told them, 'You can't do that.'"

He explained that the Legislature, just like the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System, the money to pay for their person-

See ATTAO on Next Page

Former IPI employee alleges unlawful practices of recruiting non-US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed a lawsuit in federal court, alleging that he was terminated because he complained to IPI management about the company's practice of recruiting non-U.S. citizens and non-local applicants instead of qualified U.S. and CNMI citizens.

Fitzgerald

Joshua Gray, a CNMI citizen, is suing IPI in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for wrongful termination in violation of public policy (immigration violations), wrongful failure to hire, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Gray, through William M. Fitzgerald, is demanding unspecified damages.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from IPI.

According to Gray's complaint filed Friday, IPI recruited Gray to work as a director for operations in July 2015.

In late 2017, Fitzgerald said, Gray complained to IPI that the company was violating immigration law and CNMI public policy by failing to hire qualified U.S. and local applicants.

Gray complained that IPI was implementing a policy of recruiting non-U.S. citizens solely from Asian countries and employing them instead of qualified U.S. and CNMI citizens.

Fitzgerald said Gray informed IPI that it had to stop these practices.

The lawyer said it was common knowledge that IPI's Pacific's U.S. citizen employees were not to apply for jobs posted on the CNMI Job Vacancy Announcement website for executive level positions because these jobs were to be filled by Chinese or non-U.S. citizens.

IPI allegedly terminated Gray's employment on Jan. 24, 2018, without reason or justification and done nothing to merit termination. The termination, Fitzgerald said, was clearly in retaliation.

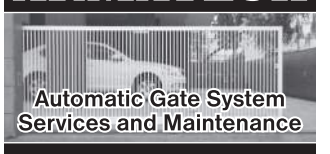
Fitzgerald said pointed out that in June 2016, Gray applied for the position of vice president of IPI's hotel operations.

The lawyer said Gray was never given an interview pursuant to his application for the position even though he was the most qualified.

Instead, IPI allegedly simply gave the position to Eddy Ram, a citizen of Singapore.

In March 2017, Gray allegedly applied for the position of vice president of talent and property management.

Fitzgerald said Gray was never given an interview even if he was the most qualified; IPI simply gave the position to Albert Ng, a citizen of Singapore.

ARMATECH


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Measles watch for Pacific nations

The World Health Organization has alerted the health ministries of Pacific island countries about an increase in measles outbreaks in the Asia-Pacific region.

Palau has no reported cases of measles at this time. However, the Ministry of Health reminds the public of the growing risk from neighboring countries experiencing outbreaks of measles.

Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Anyone who is not vaccinated is at risk of getting the disease.

Measles starts with flu-like symptoms including high fever, cough, runny nose, and pink eye. A rash also appears 3 to 4 days after the fever starts and usually spreads from head to toe.

Vaccination is the most effective preventive measure for measles. The Ministry of Health urges parents to ensure their children have received the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR, vaccine. Children should receive two doses of the MMR vaccine before the age of 5 to ensure lifelong immunity against measles. Parents are encouraged to review their children's immunization records to ensure that they have received both doses of the MMR vaccine. Older children, adults, and individuals planning to travel internationally are also encouraged to review their immunization records to ensure coverage against measles.

The Palau Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the measles situation in the region and provide regular updates to the public. ***(PR)***

KEY POINTS

- There has been a recent increase of measles outbreaks in the Asia/Pacific region.
- There are currently no outbreaks of measles in Palau or Micronesia.
- Vaccination against measles is the most effective preventive measure.
- Ensure you are up-to-date on your measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, or MMR vaccine, before traveling internationally.

Palacios looks to settle issues in OPA report

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he has been cooperative with the Department of Public Lands even before the Office of the Public Auditor came out with the report on the land that's being leased by A&M Corp.

The OPA, in a report conducted after inspecting DPL's assessment and collection fees for Lease No. L9104S, found that DPL and its predecessor—the Marianas Public Land Corp.—failed to properly assess Lot No. 057 E 05, which is being leased by Palacios.

Acting DPL secretary Marianne Teregeyo asserted that the $185,000 owed by the lessee is based on the calculation from a privileged attorney-client memo dated June 8, 2018, by the DPL legal counsel, assistant attorney general Matt Pugh, "to myself with cc copies to Evelyn Sablan, director of Finance, and Greg Deleon Guerrero, director of Compliance."

She added that rental, holdover, and interest fees were properly assessed and collected, and included a ledger.

Saipan Tribune archives quotes Palacios in a story published last year that DPL and its legal counsel have agreed that the amount he allegedly owes is wrong.

Palacios said he wants to settle this issue once and for all. "My attorney has been trying to get an appointment with DPL and their legal counsel to discuss and resolve the issue, including the concerns raised by OPA in its report. Unfortunately, DPL has not been able to give a definite date for this meeting to take place as of yet. We requested the meeting in March and hopefully that discussion will take place soon," he said.

Teregeyo added that her current management team at DPL is trying to address internal controls and measures to tighten their processes in order to protect the people of Northern Marianas descent.

"I have held employees accountable for their actions and or inactions, and always impress…the importance of ensuring that DPL bills and collects for usage of public lands," said Teregeyo.

EXPLOSIONS

From Page 1

luxury hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, a security official told The Associated Press, in the biggest violence in the South Asian country since its civil war ended a decade ago.

Two of the blasts were suspected to have been carried out by suicide bombers, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak with reporters. Worshippers and hotel guests were among the dead, the official said.

The magnitude of the bloodshed recalled Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war, when separatist Tamil Tigers and other rebel groups targeted the Central Bank, a shopping mall, a Buddhist temple and hotels popular with tourists.

No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's blasts.

St. Anthony's Shrine and the three hotels where the blasts took place are in Colombo, and are frequented by foreign tourists. A National Hospital spokesman, Dr. Samindi Samarakoon, told AP they received 47 dead, including nine foreigners, and were treating more than 200 wounded.

Local TV showed damage at the Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels.

The Shangri-La's second-floor restaurant was gutted in the blast, with the ceiling and windows blown out. Loose wires hung and tables were overturned in the blackened space.

A police magistrate was at the hotel to inspect the bodies recovered from the restaurant. From outside the police cordon, three bodies could be seen covered in white sheets.

Alex Agieleson, who was near the shrine, said buildings shook with the blast, and that a number of injured people were carried away in ambulances.

Other blasts were reported at St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, a majority Catholic town north of Colombo, and at Zion Church in the eastern town of Batticaloa. St. Sebastian's appealed for help on its Facebook page.

The explosion ripped off the roof and knocked out doors and windows at St. Sebastian's, where people carried the wounded away from blood-stained pews, TV footage showed.

Sri Lankan security officials said they were investigating. Police immediately sealed off the areas.

USCIS

From Page 1

that an applicant who is involved in certain marijuana-related activities may lack good moral character if found to have violated federal law, even if such activity has been decriminalized under applicable state laws.

Since 1996, some states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to decriminalize the manufacture, possession, distribution, and use of both medical and non-medical (recreational) marijuana in their respective jurisdictions. However, federal law classifies marijuana as a "Schedule I" controlled substance whose manufacture (which includes production, such as planting, cultivation, growing, or harvesting), distribution, dispensing, or possession may lead to immigration consequences.

See the Policy Manual Update for more information. ***(USCIS)***

DENGUE

From Page 1

ictus, which is another vector of dengue virus does exist on island.

As a result, the public is urged to remain vigilant in preventing the transmission of the disease and eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

DPHSS notes that there are several outbreaks of dengue fever in the Pacific region, including the Republic of Palau with more than 150 cases, and the Philippines with more than 56,000 cases and 227 deaths.

While there is no vaccine for dengue fever, people traveling to the Philippines or Palau should be vigilant about taking precautions and preventing mosquito bites.

The principal symptoms of dengue fever are high fever, severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, joint pain, muscle and bone pain, rash, and mild bleeding usually around nose or gums. Generally, younger children and those with their first dengue infection have a milder illness than older children and adults.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever, the severe form of the disease, is characterized by a fever that lasts from two to seven days, which can be followed by persistent vomiting, severe abdominal pain, and difficulty breathing. In addition, patients with DHF tend to bruise easily or other skin hemorrhages and possibly even internal bleeding.

The best preventive measure for residents living in areas infested with mosquitoes is to eliminate the places where the mosquito lays its eggs, which are primarily artificial containers that hold water. Mosquito larvae only need a little bit of standing water to survive. The department wants to remind residents that breaking the mosquito life cycle starts at the home.

The department asks residents to do their part to reduce the mosquito population with some simple steps:

- Properly cover or discard and dispose all containers that collect rainwater or water, such as flower pots, garbage cans, recycling containers, wheelbarrows, aluminum cans, boat tarps, old tires and buckets.
- Flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly.
- Flush ornamental bromeliads with water, or treat with BTI, which is a biological larvicide available at most home stores.
- Clean roof gutters, which can become clogged and hold water.
- Change the water in outdoor pet dishes regularly.
- Keep pools and spas chlorinated and filtered.
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.
- Cover rain barrels with screening.
- Check for standing water under houses, near plumbing drains, under air conditioner drip areas, around septic tanks, and water pumps.
- Take steps to eliminate standing water, improve drainage, and prevent future puddling

It's important for residents to remember the four D's of mosquito prevention:

1. **Drain**: Empty out water containers and scrub the sides to remove mosquito eggs at least once every 5 days.
2. **Dress**: Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
3. **Defend**: Properly apply an approved mosquito repellent such as DEET, picaridin, 1113535, or oil of lemon-eucalyptus.
4. **Dusk and Dawn**: Avoid activity during those times when mosquitoes are most active.

Please remember that the first line, and the best defense, against mosquitoes is you and your action in and around your home or business. Standing water is the culprit eliminate any source of standing water! Work with your neighbors or adjoining property owners to eliminate standing water sources used by mosquitoes to breed.

If you feel sick:

- Talk to your doctor or nurse if you feel seriously ill, especially if you have a fever and have traveled to a country with locally occurring Dengue Fever or other mosquito-borne diseases.
- Consult with you doctor about the use of acetaminophen to treat fever and pain.
- Get lots of rest, and drink plenty of liquids.
- Avoid spreading the disease by preventing more mosquito bites. ***(PR)***

FIRE

From Page 1

On Saturday at 10:03am, DFEMS reportedly received a call from a male person about a structure that was on fire in the San Jose village, behind Dolphins.

At 10:05am, DFEMS—Engine-2 from the Garapan Fire Station and Rescue-1, Forestry-1, and Medic-1 from the Susupe Fire Station—responded to the scene.

The Rescue-1 and Medic-1 were the first to arrive at the scene at 10:10am, followed by Engine-2 and Forestry-1, arriving at 10:12am.

The fire was reportedly controlled at 10:24am. No individuals were injured and no treatments were provided at the scene for medical complaints in relation to the fire.

Responding units confirmed that structure was fully engulfed and fire crews continued to suppress the fire and prevent the flames from traveling or damaging homes adjacent to it.

The *Saipan Tribune* visited the scene yesterday and, according to a man who lives around the area, they believe the fire could have been from the dry weather and heat on that day.

DFEMS has been responding to wildland fires back to back, with multiple brush fires erupting in the northern parts of Saipan. Over seven were contained over the course of last week.

The brush fire eruption is attributed to the island shifting from the rainy season to the dry season.

ATTAO

From Page 3

nel and other staff expenses are included in the operational budget allocated to them every year and that their staff have contracts with each of them. "That's why we cannot breach our contracts that we already signed. We have to go back and revisit our contracts and fix them."

Attao said that he's telling the other members to plan ahead until things return to normal. "We're going to be in the position that this is going to continue.

He added that the Legislature and OMB reached an agreement where they would get the same allotment of $7,500. "We will get the allotment so we can take care of our personnel and work out their contracts.

"We're getting the same amount in April. But, it will be a bigger cut in May [and so forth]. The cuts are already happening, but we're going to have to get money from the subsequent year or months to put it into this month."

Kilili: $8.2 million for Medicaid

The Marianas Medicaid program, which has used up all funding for the year, will get an immediate $8,249,552.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has been working with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services address Medicaid funding for the Marianas ever since Super Typhoon Yutu in October caused a speed-up in spending.

The Medicaid program provides health care for over 15,000 individuals on the islands.

In January, Sablan got the U.S. House of Representatives to increase emergency funding for Marianas Medicaid to $36 million in H.R. 268, a bill to help areas nationwide hit by typhoons, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. But that legislation has been hung up in the Senate ever since.

The delegate has also proposed to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar that the $75 million set aside for territories in Section 1323 of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, be used to meet immediate needs in the Marianas.

» Delegate's work helps fill funding gap

"In the meantime, CMS has informed me that $8.2 million in recovered funds are now available for the Marianas Medicaid program. This means our people can receive the care they need and vendors will get paid," Sablan said.

Medicaid accounts for over one-quarter of the revenue of the Marianas' only hospital.

"I am very grateful to the hardworking professionals at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, given how desperate the situation is with our Medicaid program completely out of money," said Sablan. "This interim solution is critical, until the Senate acts and while we explore the possibility of using the Affordable Care Act money."

CMS contacted the Washington congressional office on Wednesday to say the agency was making $8.2 million immediately available for drawdown. The money was recovered from unspent Medicaid grants to the Marianas from fiscal years 2012 through 2015 and from other previously awarded grant funds, also unspent.

Medicaid hearing

As vice chairman for Insular Affairs on the House Natural Resources Committee, Sablan is also putting together a hearing on the Medicaid funding crisis facing all the U.S. insular areas. One-time Affordable Care Act funds for American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Marianas will no longer be available after this year. Each jurisdiction will have to make do just with the block grant it received before Obamacare was enacted in 2010.

The Marianas received $109,258,678 from Obamacare. The Marianas annual block grant is only $6,700,000.

"Holding a hearing is one tool we have in Congress to make sure this 'Medicaid cliff' at the end of the year gets action," Sablan said.

"We cannot let anyone forget how many people in the Marianas and all the other insular areas depend on Medicaid for their health care, and how important Medicaid revenue is to the hospital and the other providers everyone in our islands goes to for care."

Sablan said he expects to announce an exact date for the hearing shortly. ***(PR)***

3 GCA students join Team CNMI for Math League

Grace Christian Academy's High School Math Court winners have their photo taken. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three Grace Christian Academy students have earned slots on the CNMI team that will compete in the Math League national competition in Kansas, Missouri, on May 18, 2019.

Julie Quan, a 10th grade silver medalist in the High School Math Court, is one of the six students from different high schools who will compete in Kansas as part of Team CNMI.

Six alternates were also chosen for the CNMI team, including Seong Beom Kevin Song, an 11th grade silver medalist at the High School Math Court, and Jushua Qiu, 12th grade gold medalist.

Qiu competed last year as part of Team CNMI.

In addition, the GCA team results in the High School Math Court regional competition earned them a silver medal.

Other GCA winners include Joanah Jimenez, who also won gold medal in the 9th grade division.

GCA dominated the 12th grade division, with three winners: Qiu, gold medal; Chener Oscar Li, 4th place; and Tina Choi, in 5th place.

GCA Math Court coordinator Susan Pajarillaga thanked Glenn Keaton, GCA AP Physics and Calculus teacher, for his help in training the GCA Math Court competitors.

GCA HIGH SCHOOL STATE ROUND QUALIFIERS

Joanah Victoria Jimenez
Seunghan Han
Julie Quan
SeongBeom Song
MinHyeok Ha
Tina Choi
Chener Oscar Li
Jushua Qiu

GCA proctors: Marilyn Aldan, Maricel Javier

GCA Math Court coordinator: Susan Pajarillaga

Merante named to Fairleigh Dickinson U honors list

MADISON, NJ—Mark Samuel Merante, of Saipan, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham campus in Madison, NJ, has been named to the honors list for the fall 2018 semester.

To qualify for the honors list, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's Florham campus is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County. Fairleigh Dickinson University is New Jersey's largest private university and features more than 100 liberal arts and professional degree programs, two international campuses, dozens of partnerships with internationally institutions and special programs and status within the United Nations. For more information, go to www.fdu.edu. ***(PR)***

IPI employee's lawsuit over elevator accident is dismissed

The federal court on Friday dismissed with finality a lawsuit filed by an employee of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., who alleged that he was injured when a cup of hot coffee he was holding spilled on his hand after an elevator shook violently in a bank's building in Garapan.

The dismissal is with prejudice, which means Randyl W. Kruid can no longer re-file his lawsuit against BankGuam Holding Co. and the Connecticut-based Otis Elevator Co.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood dismissed all of Kruid's claims at the parties' request to drop the case.

Bruce Berline is counsel for Kruid. Thomas E. Clifford and Daniel T. Guidotti are counsel for BankGuam Holding Co. and Otis Elevator Co., respectively.

Parties on both sides agreed to a settlement last month.

Kruid was demanding damages.

Imperial Pacific leases space on the fourth floor of the Bank of Guam building. Kruid, a resident of South Dakota, worked at Imperial Pacific's offices on the fourth floor.

According to Kruid, he was on his way to the IPI office early in the morning of Nov. 22, 2017, when the elevator allegedly shook, causing the cup of hot coffee he was holding to spill on the back of his left hand. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ETC CONTRIBUTION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sung Soo Lim, center, managing director for Wushin Corp., and Wushin marketing manager Elmera Lacap, right, drops by Mount Carmel School to present an Education Tax Credit contribution to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who said, "We thank Mr. Lim and Mrs. Lacap for this contribution, which will support or continuing recovery and rebuilding efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu."

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island May 13 - 16, 2019.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC
Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office

As a leader in cardiology, he depends on Good Samaritan Hospital to deliver the premier technology and resources he needs.

"I partnered with Good Samaritan Hospital because of its tradition and longstanding commitment to excellence."

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Public being invited to plant trees, flowers at WSR school

Precinct 2 representatives Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan announced yesterday that the next event in their "Beautify Our Villages" initiative is a community planting and cleanup this Saturday, April 27, at William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa, from 8am to 10:30am. The event is open to the public and volunteers are welcome.

"In celebration of Environment Month and Earth Day, we will be planting trees and flowers to help beautify our precinct's public elementary school, which lost a lot of its greenery in Super Typhoon Yutu," Rep. Tina Sablan said.

"We will also invite volunteers to help clean up the litter on and around the school premises. WSR is right in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, and we'd like to spruce up the area and make it nicer for our kids and their families," she added.

The representatives are collaborating with WSR Elementary School students, staff, and parents; Division of Forestry; Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research and Extension Educational Services; and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

The event is designed to be both fun and educational, and volunteers will learn gardening techniques at different planting stations around the campus.

Pedro Tudela, the Division of Forestry's community stewardship program coordinator, said that the division is glad to be part of the event. "I hope to see families coming out to support their kids," he said, noting that there are "a lot of jobs" involved in planting and taking care of trees and flowers.

"This is our second event in our 'Beautify Our Villages' project, and we are grateful for our volunteers, collaborators and most especially the students from WSR that will be coming out to join us to have an amazing experience," Rep. John Paul Sablan said.

"We still have a lot more exciting projects for the months to come, and it is a great opportunity to practice your skills, and see personalities and people of all ages coming together to create an effect of lasting encouraging change around our community," he added.

For more information or to sign up for volunteer opportunities in the precinct, contact the Office of Rep. Christina Sablan at 664-8829 or rep.sablanc@cnmileg.gov.mp or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965 or rep.sablanj@cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Mariner gets medical care at sea after explosion

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The Guam-based "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 responded to a mariner in distress aboard M/V *APL Saipan* on April 17. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam notified HSC-25 that the mariner aboard M/V *APL Saipan* sustained injuries from an explosion that occurred onboard the ship in the engine room.

The HSC-25 alert search and rescue led by aircraft commander Lt. Gabriel Pogliano was on scene within 35 minutes of the initial call from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam.

"When I received the medevac request with the patient's condition, I knew time was of the essence," said Pogliano. "My instinct was to get on scene as soon as possible to give the patient the best chance of survival."

The crew was unable to land on the ship upon arriving due to its structure and quickly found an area to lower SAR medical technician Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Richard Derrick to assess the patient and provide immediate care.

"The ability to get him safely aboard the ship is a testament to the skill of our hoist operator, [Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 1st Class] William Medlin, and my copilot Lt. j.g. Luke Stanley," said Pogliano.

The rough seas, winds and a high hover requirement made it unsafe to hoist a rescue litter to the aircraft. The SAR crew decided to leave Derrick on the *Saipan* to provide care until the ship could return to Guam.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Richard Derrick, assigned to the Island Knights of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 speaks with a medical representative.

U.S. NAVY/ HSC 25

"The moment I made it on deck my primary focus was the care and safety of the mariner," said Derrick. "Given the confidence of my training and access to medical care within ship's company, I felt it was best suited to stay onboard until the ship could port in Guam."

The incident was the 10th emergency call to HSC-25 by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam in 2019 to date, and the 5th call in the last 4 weeks.

"The last month has been extremely active with medevac and rescue requests from the U.S. Coast Guard," said HSC-25 commanding officer Cmdr. Frank Loforti. "The Island Knights are honored to have the opportunity to make a difference. I would also be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to thank the team. We have the finest Sailors in the fleet and the credit goes to them for making sure our aircraft are always ready."

HSC-25 provides a multi-mission rotary wing capability for units in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and maintains a Guam-based 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation capability, directly supporting U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. ***(PR)***

CCAC: April is best for Flame Tree Arts Festival

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture believes that April is the best month to hold the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival and intends to hold the festival this month moving forward.

CCAC executive director Parker Yobei said the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival would continue to be held every April, the time when the flame tree flowers are starting to go into full bloom on Saipan.

Yobei noted in an interview that he was commenting on a previous Marianas Visitors Authority board's suggestion to move the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival to around June.

He said the CCAC had already tried holding the arts festival in June but, based on sales and participation, April is most ideal.

"We are going to stick to April because…it just didn't work out for the artists and for the business side [of the festival]," he said. "I understand that the flame trees are in full bloom [around June] but it is actually in the month of April is when the first flower blooms."

At the same time, holding the festival in June could possibly hinder Liberation Day planning. Liberation Day usually falls on July 4 every year.

"It just wouldn't work out. We [would be] competing with other community activities. In February we have the Pika Festival on Tinian and March has the Women's Month festivities, so April is just right for the Flame Tree Arts Festival," he said.

The 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, held from April 11, 2019, through April 14, 2019, on Saipan according to Yobei saw the highest number of artist-participants.

Scheduled power interruptions

There will be power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, April 22, 2019 – 8:30am to 4:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power Service area(s) affected: Torres Farm
  - ❏ Water service are(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Water service will be interrupted during the power outage period for: None
  - ❏ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace 10 wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 8:30am to 12:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 1:00pm TO 6:00pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Mount Carmel Cathedral Church
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace two wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 24, 2019–8:30am to 12:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace two wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 24, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Kagman III
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Lalanghita Road, Kagman III
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman area will be affected dependent on water tank level
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Kagman
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Kagman 1, Kagman 2, Kagman 3 and Kagman 4
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Kagman, Papago and San Vicente
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **n Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: San Vicente
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: San Vicente and Papago
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: San Vicente, Papago and Portions of Dandan
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Sunday, April 28, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Susupe
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Beach Road, Susupe (CNMI District Court House to Mount Carmel Church)
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-5, A-6, A-9 and A-11
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven (7) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Monday, April 29, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Project Village location: Kagman III
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Lalanghita Road, Kagman III
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman area will be affected dependent on water tank level
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 52 wooden poles with concrete poles.

The ongoing pole replacement projects are a result of CUC's FEMA Water Mitigation Project and the ongoing restoration efforts following Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Marianas Trench national monument gets a new chief

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Natural resource professional Tammy Summers has been hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the new refuge manager for the Guam National Wildlife Refuge and superintendent for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Summers will provide leadership for the conservation management activities on both the Refuge and in the Monument, including continuing to support important partnerships in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The approximately 1,217-acre Guam National Wildlife Refuge protects the limestone and coastal forests, and nearshore coral reefs and waters essential for native wildlife like the endangered *Haggan betde* (green sea turtle), threatened *Fanihi* (Mariana fruit bat), and endangered *Hayun lagu* (Serianthes nelsonii tree). The Ritidian Unit, home to Puntan Litekyan, welcomes visitors to explore the roughly two miles worth of trails, visit latte stone and other cultural sites, or stop by the visitor center.

Designated a monument in 2009, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument includes both the Mariana Trench and the Mariana Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuges. The 95,216 acres of protected lands and waters of the Monument include submerged lands and volcanic sites, unique coral formations and marine species found nowhere else on Earth.

"I am incredibly humbled, honored and excited to continue collaborating with stakeholders and community members of the CNMI and Guam in this new capacity," said Summers.

Summers has spent over 10 years in the Mariana Archipelago working as a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration affiliate studying sea turtles and, most recently, as a natural resource marine specialist for Naval Facilities Marianas. She has also served as an aquatic preserve manager for the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Joseph Bay, and Alligator Harbor in the Florida Panhandle. Summers then served two years as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer and national park and marine reserve project coordinator in Bacalar Chico, Ambergris Caye, Belize

She received a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and a B.S. in Ecology from the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne and a Master of Natural Resource and Environmental Management degree from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She also received a certificate in International Cultural Studies from the UH East-West Center with an emphasis on the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Summers began her tenure with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 14. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UOG Job Fair open to all on April 24

Job seekers islandwide are invited to attend the University of Guam Job Fair, hosted by UOG's Career Development Office on Wednesday, April 24, at the Calvo Field House, from 9am to 2pm. The fair will feature 30-plus employers including businesses and federal and local government entities looking for employees and interns. Attendees should come dressed professionally with copies of their resume and cover letter. ***(PR)***

Calling Class of 1981 high school graduates

Attention to all 1981 graduate(s) of Marianas High School, Dolphins 81, and off-Island graduates in Guam or the U.S. mainland that there will be a class reunion meeting on April 25, 2019, starting at 6pm at Tech-NIC Computer Gaming, above Sherwin Williams across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Department of Agriculture phone lines out of service

Telephone lines for the Department of Agriculture's Director's Office, Forestry & Soil Resources, Animal Health/Animal Control, and Agriculture Development Services are currently not in service. Should you need to contact any of these divisions, call the Aquatic & Wildlife Division at 735-3955/56. ***(PR)***

USCIS to present naturalization information session in Guam next month

Officials from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a free information session to the public about citizenship and the naturalization process in Guam next month.

This session will take place at the Guam Public Library Hagatna branch.

USCIS will provide information about eligibility for citizenship, how to apply online, the English and civics tests, application forms and fees and how to best interact with USCIS about individual cases. Officials will also discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of immigration scams and provide agency updates. Free educational materials will be given out, while supplies last. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS ROADSHOW

Travel agencies, tourism partners, and media attend the Marianas Roadshow on April 1, 2019, held by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Qingdao, China. MVA

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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HR Topic: Are You An Employer?
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Friday, April 26, 2019
8:30am—10:30am
Location: CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:
Michael Dotts, Dotts Law Firm

Michael Dotts has been an attorney in the CNMI for more than 25 years. Much of his career has been spent representing employers with employment issues. Michael started his career in San Francisco with a law firm that represented employers in union negotiations and before the NLRB. On Saipan he represented numerous employers in investigations and brought by the Department of Labor related to claims of unpaid overtime. He has also represented numerous employers in investigations and in Federal Court actions brought by the EEOC, and he has also defended employers sued for wrongful termination.

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COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a regular meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: March 28, 2019

II. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
- A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
  1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel.
  2. IPI Personnel – Status of RIF, Resident Employment Objectives, & CLA Annual Plan.
  3. Responsible Gaming Program.
  4. Compliance Committee.
  5. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
- B. Other Matters.

V. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. DPL Land Designation for the CCC main office. Lot 124 E 43 (5,000 square meters). 03/12/19.
- B. Update on House Bill 21-11.
- C. CCC Multi-Year Report (2014-2018) and Website (www.cnmicasinocommission.com).

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Approval for Regular Casino Key Employee (CKE) License RENEWALS (2-years):
  1. Alepuyo, Ellsbeth Viola - Senior Vice President, Special Projects
  2. Browne, Donald Robert - Senior Vice President, Security & Surveillance
  3. Butcher, Kelly M - Vice President, Human Resource & Legal
  4. Chan, Chi Pang - Director, Count Operations & Project
  5. Hallmark, Donavan Darel – Vice President, Electronic Gaming Operations
  6. McDonald, Charles Herby II – Vice President, Compliance
  7. Choi, Tat Mong – Vice President, Cage Operations
  8. Lau, Ka Fong – Vice President, Table Games
  9. Tan, Jaik Hun – Senior Director, Gaming Technical Services
  10. Wong, Kam Yin – Senior Vice President, Projects Facility Management & Operations
  11. Morrow, Laurence Scott – Assistant Vice President, Table Games
  12. Hu, Yinan – Senior Manager, I.T. Gaming Solutions
- B. **Approval** for Regular Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming (3-years):
  *** All Rosy Limited.** Furniture Supplier. Provisional License will expire on 05/06/2019
- C. Request to Withdraw Application for the Regular Casino Vendor License:
  *** S.U.I. Corporation (dba: LJ's Catering Services).** Letter of withdrawal from
  Rene Batallones, President, dated March 15, 2019.
  Provisional License will expire on 07/29/2019.
- D. **Annual Election of Officers** (Term: May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020).
  Positions: Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; and, Media Relations/Public Affairs

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. IPI Financial Matters
- B. Report by the CCC Audit Division
- C. Report by the Legal Counsel

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Exercise Palau is largest US Army presence in Palau in 3 decades

U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WHITNEY C. HOUSTON

Private 1st Class Benjamin Alley, an infantryman serving with A Company, 5th Battallion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, stages in a security posture while more of his fellow soldiers exit a C-130 Hercules at the Palau International Airport last April 13, 2019, as part of Exercise Palau.

U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WHITNEY C. HOUSTON

Minister of State Faustina K. Rahuher-Marugg, left, Staff Sgt. Jacob Remoket, Staff Sgt. Jessica San Nicolas, Sgt. Sloane Malchiyanged, and U.S. Ambassador to Palau Amy Hyatt, pose for a picture as soldiers exit a C-130 Hercules at the Palau International Airport last April 13, 2019, as part of Exercise Palau. The three U.S.-Palauan soldiers are all participating during the training exercise.

By WHITNEY HOUSTON
128TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Exercise Palau 2019, which ran from April 13 to April 19, marked the largest U.S. Army presence in the Republic of Palau in three decades. The exercise included community and animal health outreach services at several sites including Koror, Peleliu, and Angaur.

Also, there was security cooperation operations with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division.

A local road that leads to a training site for the future use of Palauan Security Forces, was also repaired and widened.

Through civic action and training, Exercise Palau was a demonstration that the U.S. is committed to the long-term security of Palau as outlined in the Compact of Free Association and has been long desired by the people of Palau.

The exercise fell under the Pacific Pathways concept, which aims to strengthen partner relationships and aids to ensure Palau builds sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economic growth.

"This exercise is a direct reflection of our commitment to the security and defense of Palau," said Amy Hyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Palau, during a press conference held after the infantry unit's arrival. "...When [U.S. Navy] Adm. Philip Davidson was here, the president of Palau asked the admiral to bring more army exercises, because there hadn't been any in decades. The next thing we know, Pacific Pathways' exercise locations included Palau as one of their training sites. So Adm. Davidson was good on his word, and the Palauan people are happy to have the [U.S.] Army here."

On arrival, the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment demonstrated how to secure an airfield with the collaboration of the Palauan Security Forces. This was the first of many training exercises to be held throughout the week.

"The securing of the airfield…was done with the collaboration of Palauan Security Forces," said Lt. Col. Douglas Graham, who serves as commander of the 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Reg., 1-2 SBCT, 7th Inf. Div. "Over the next week we'll conduct many more training events like this, and we'll be looking at training areas that will benefit both U.S. and Palauan forces in the future."

A unique aspect to the exercise was three enlisted Palauan soldiers returning to Palau to participate in the exercise. The citizens of Palau under the COFA agreement have been able to join the U.S. Armed Forces and have been heavy contributors in U.S. foreign campaigns.

"It's humbling to know that soldiers from Palau enlist at a greater rate than almost any other state," Graham said, "and that seven have sacrificed their lives in the last decades keeping their fellow man safe and free. It's an honor to serve with the likes of our Palauan soldiers here."

The relationship between the U.S. and Palau is strong, important and based on mutual respect and cooperation. Participation in security cooperation with a focus on the human element makes for a more secure and free Indo-Pacific.

"It's a great story for us and Palau," Graham said. "I understand that there has always been a deep relationship between our militaries, and it's nice to be able to honor our commitments with the COFA, and it's an honor to be able to hopefully start a new chapter with this exercise."

Exercise offers veterinary outreach to community in Palau

By SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN ETHERIDGE
128TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN ETHERIDGE

Capt. Shareen Burton, a veterinarian with the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, cleans the ears of a kitten at an outreach program at the Palau Animal Welfare Society last April 15, 2019, in Koror, Palau, during Exercise Palau.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN ETHERIDGE

Sgt. 1st Class Aldolfo De Leon, with the 405th Civil Affairs Battalion, prepares a kitten for surgery to be spayed at a veterinarian outreach program at the Palau Animal Welfare Society last April 15, 2019 in Koror, Palau, during Exercise Palau.

KOROR, Republic of Palau—Palauans of the of the four-legged variety are receiving some special attention during a four-day veterinarian health outreach program that started April 15, 2019 in Koror, Palau. U.S. Army veterinarians and the Palau Animal Welfare Society teamed up to offer routine animal care including vaccinations, spays and neutering as a part of Exercise Palau.

Exercise Palau is part of Pacific Pathways, an annual U.S. Army Pacific operation, demonstrating the U.S. Army's commitment to the Palau nation, and security cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"Not only will we be doing the routine spays and neuters, but we will be doing surgeries on animals that need it, and any other sick pets that need treatment," said Capt. Shareen Burton, a veterinarian with the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The veterinarian outreach clinic will help satisfy the high need of animal health care throughout the island country.

"Unfortunately, there is no veterinarian on the island, so the need for veterinarian care—whether it is vaccines, or sick pet exams, or surgeries—is very valuable here," said Burton.

The high need for animal care has caused a large response from the community.

"We are overwhelmed," said Lori Colin, founder and volunteer for PAWS. "We have a wait list. I think the vets could work 10 days here easily."

Burton agreed, "Unfortunately it is only four days, but it is an action-packed four days. We are trying to see as many pets as we can."

Burton also said that she will be recommending that on future Army missions to Palau, the veterinarian health care clinics should last longer to help satisfy the need of the community and to get the most out of the medical training for the Army.

Although the clinic is only four days, the participants hope to leave a legacy of their service. Burton said that the spaying and neutering that is done will help prevent overpopulation of animals on the island and the other medical care will aid the pets and their families. The team of Army veterinarians will also be leaving behind medications when they leave the country to help local animals after they are gone.

Fisheries group rallies behind ice-data swap deal

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Fishermen Association supports the Department of Land and Natural Resource's idea to forge an agreement between the department and CNMI fishermen to swap ice for fishery data.

The idea is to help fishermen save money by giving them the ice they need for their ice chests. In exchange, the fishermen would give DLNR scientists information about the fish they caught.

Saipan Fishermen Association's Gene Weaver believes the agreement is a good idea to help CNMI fishermen. "At the same time, fishermen would be saving on their ice expense but also providing much needed data [about] their catch, which is needed," he said in an email message when asked about the DLNR proposal.

As a means to help the environment, Weaver suggested that DLNR eliminate plastic bags when distributing the ice to the fishermen.

"I would like to see them do away with plastic ice bags… and provide ice to the fishermen/fisherwomen directly into their ice chest. This would be one way to rid of plastic, which is a worldwide problem," he said.

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente outlined the proposal in a previous interview, saying DLNR plans to offer free ice to fishermen in exchange for data about their daily catch because the department wants to both help fisherfolk save money and gather vital marine life information.

According to Benavente, information that CNMI fishermen can provide about their daily catch is information the DLNR could use to protect the islands' natural resources.

Additionally, information on what kinds of fish are caught regularly is essential data for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and with the free ice-fish data swap in place, it would make the process of gathering this information easier.

"This is something we're trying to work with the local fishermen in terms of providing them the ice to keep their fish fresh [while they] give us the data of their catches on a daily basis…because this information is essential to NOAA….and so we can also be knowledgeable [about] what kind of fish are being caught and what are hard to catch," he said.

The agreement would also give CNMI fisherfolk an opportunity to save money. An average fisherfolk needs about six to 10 bags of ice to maintain the freshness of the catch. With ice going for nearly $2 a bag, the DLNR agreement would help fisherfolk save at least $10 a day, Benavente said.

"We give them all the ice they want, provided this is for the fish and not for personal use. It could be a good day or bad day of catching but, for fishermen who go out daily, that's spending about $10 daily and that's a lot of money. This will be good savings for them," he said.

LT Travel offers $20K hole-in-one at HANMI tournament

LT Travel is offering $20,000 as a hole-in-one prize at the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort West Course.

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants and follows a black-jack double Peoria format. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

"We sincerely appreciate the return of LT Travel as a hole-in-one sponsor at this year's HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament," said tournament chair Steve Balakrishna. "We have had hole-in-one winners at the tournament in the past, and nothing would be better than seeing one lucky golfer walk away from hole No. 13 with this generous prize."

Additional hole-in-one prizes include $20,000 from Century Tours, a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross from Triple J Motors, and $5,000 from Pacific Insurance.

The early bird tournament fee for those who register by next Friday, April 26, at 5pm is $100. The fee increases to $120 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet.

For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including accurate drive on line (#9), accurate drive circle (#5), aggressive drive (#12), longest drive (#18), and nearest to the pin (#3, #7, #13, #17).

The tournament will start at 7am, and the awards banquet will be held the same day at 6pm at Grandvrio Resort Saipan. Registration forms are now available at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, or www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

Sponsors can avail of complimentary player slots for several levels of support: $1,200 or more cash, maximum 2 complimentary slots; $600-$1,999 cash, 1 complimentary slot; or $600 or more in-kind donation, 1 complimentary slot.

For more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1 (670) 234-.7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(HANMI)***

Ken Chen, general manager of LT Travel, donates $20,000 as a hole-in-one prize on April 12, 2019, for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort on Saipan. From left, tournament committee members Catherine Perry, Franco Santos, Das Krishnan, Steve Jung; Chen; HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh; tournament committee chair Steve Balakrishnan; and committee members Glenn Policare and Socorro Huliganga. HANMI

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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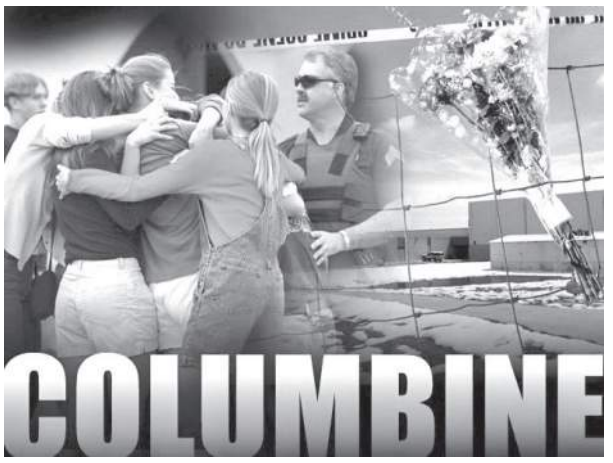
EDITORIAL

20 years after Columbine, we live under the gun



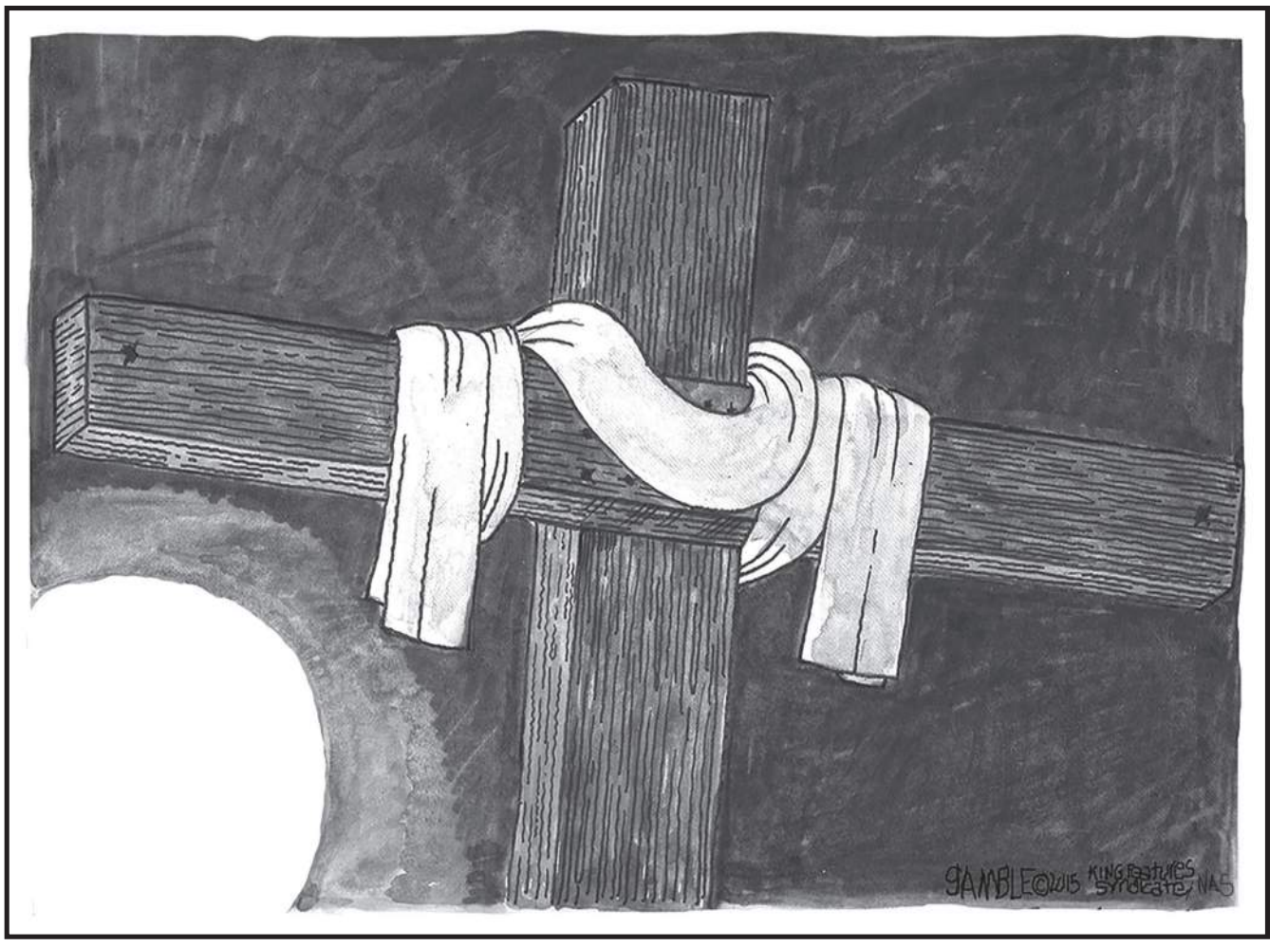
At about 20 minutes after 11 on the morning of April 20, 1999, students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold pulled semiautomatic firearms and sawed-off shotguns from beneath their black trench coats and, standing on an elevated part of their Columbine High School campus in suburban Denver, began shooting.

Within minutes, 12 students and one teacher were dead or dying and another two dozen people were wounded. As bad as the massacre was, it could have been significantly worse. Large bombs the two high school seniors had left in the crowded cafeteria and in their parked cars failed to go off, as did most of the pipe bombs they tossed as they strode though the campus.

That devastating day at Columbine—20 years ago Saturday—has come to represent an inflection point in the public consciousness. The word Columbine itself now conjures up all-too-familiar images of troubled youths, weapons, terror and violence, and the massacre has insinuated itself into some still-developing teenage minds as a nihilistic resolution to post-adolescent problems. In a sick yet unsurprising twist, at least 16 Denver-area school districts—including Columbine's—didn't open Wednesday as police sought an 18-year-old Miami woman infatuated with Columbine who had traveled to Denver and, upon her arrival Monday, bought a shotgun and ammunition and disappeared. She was found dead Wednesday from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

While full-scale massacres like the one at Columbine remain rare, school shootings generally are becoming more common and more deadly. According to statistics maintained by the Naval Postgraduate School, 349 people have died in school shootings since Columbine. Among the most horrific were the killings of 26 people, mostly young children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and the deaths of 17 people, mostly students, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

See 20 YEARS on Next Page



Fears of Columbine still fresh

By DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

Dawn Rhodes is a reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

For a few hours Wednesday, I relived the panic, fear and anxiety I felt 20 years ago as a high school student in suburban Denver.

This week marks the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colo. On Wednesday, my hometown was consumed in panic as Denver-area authorities frantically searched for a young woman "infatuated" with the shooting and who had bought a gun after recently traveling to Colorado.

Schools throughout my hometown shut down in order to keep students and staff safe. The young woman, not even alive when Columbine occurred, eventually was found dead, according to The Denver Post.

I haven't lived in Denver for more than a decade. I've lost many of the connections that bind us to our hometowns when we move away and create lives elsewhere.

But Columbine, I will always carry with me.

I went to school at Dakota Ridge High School, a few miles down the road. I was a sophomore. It was to be a momentous week for me. I was about to turn 16, get my driver's license and go to an 'N Sync concert in Colorado Springs.

The first gunshots at Columbine occurred around 11 a.m. that day. But this was long before everyone had cellphones and social media, so it was a couple of hours before we found out what was happening.

I'd just left my French class and went into biology. All the TVs in the school flashed to CNN, carrying the news about the massacre.

The first reports we heard were that as many as 25 people had been killed.

We just sat in class and watched. Some people cried.

Columbine shooting survivors share how attack has shaped them 20 years later

Our school went on lockdown. I lent my emergency cellphone to my classmates so they could call their parents. No one was allowed to leave school until a parent signed us out. But the frenzy of parents trying to find their kids turned our front hall into a madhouse. I spotted my mom and we ran out of there.

I was in disbelief. It didn't even occur to me that this was national news. It took several panicked phone calls from relatives across the country for that realization to sink in.

A couple of days later, our community galvanized and I marched down the street with hundreds of classmates and students from nearby Chatfield High School to support our sister school. We gathered in the park and formed an enormous prayer circle. We all sobbed as someone played "My Heart Will Go On," then packed into buses to go back to school.

Columbine led the local news every day for months. I would learn about the latest reporting every morning before heading off to school.

Twenty years on, those details are still fresh in my mind.

Mass shootings and school shootings _ and the ubiquitous threat of them _ create trauma that splinters out well beyond the victims, and the families and friends who must forever cope with loss.

As I learned this week _ anxiously awaiting a peaceful resolution to this new threat _ gun violence even can weigh upon those of us who only witness it from a distance.

I wasn't at Columbine and I don't dare equate my experience with that of those who were: the students and teachers who heard gunshots, were forced to take cover, then flee their school; the parents who received that horrific phone call and waited in agony to figure out whether their kids were safe; the first responders who confronted such cataclysmic horror.

But pain and fear were all-consuming for me and many of my friends.

School was open the next day, but few of us showed up. For those of us who did, there was no classwork. We just went from period to period talking with our teachers about what was on our minds.

That's when it slowly sunk in that school was not necessarily a safe place. This happened in our neighborhood, and there was little rhyme or reason why it couldn't have been us.

I switched schools after that year.

Mass shootings have become commonplace and the threat of them is everywhere. Three of this week's Pulitzer Prize honors were awarded to news media that covered horrific instances of massacre by gun: at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Tree of Life synagogue and the Capital Gazette newspaper.

News media frequently report on close calls, when law enforcement uncovers a threat to local schools and are able to stop it before anything comes to pass.

When Columbine unfolded, as a country we couldn't believe anything like this could happen. Now we know it can happen; we just hope it doesn't happen to us, our schools and communities, our children and families.

Columbine isn't something I think about much. But even when you are far away and so much time has passed, fear has a way of showing you that some wounds never totally heal.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

On Earth Day, gloomy predictions haven't come to pass

By NICOLAS LORIS
Tribune News Service

Nicolas Loris is the Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy, Center for Free Markets and Regulatory Reform at The Heritage Foundation.

This Earth Day, it almost feels like we should be carving some turkey. Why? Because we have a lot to be thankful for since the first Earth Day event occurred 49 years ago.

We should be thankful that the gloom-and-doom predictions made throughout the past several decades haven't come true. Fear-mongering about explosive population growth, food crises and the imminent depletion of natural resources have been a staple of Earth Day events since 1970. And the common thread among them is that they've stirred up a lot more emotions than facts.

"By the year 2000, if present trends continue, we will be using up crude oil at such a rate ... that there won't be any more crude oil," ecologist Kenneth Watt warned around the time of the first Earth Day event. "You'll drive up to the pump and say, `Fill 'er up, buddy,' and he'll say, `I am very sorry, there isn't any.'" Watt also warned of global cooling and nitrogen buildup rendering all of the planet's land unusable.

> *Today, April 22, is Earth Day*

The issue, however, is that present trends don't continue. They change dramatically for a number of reasons. Innovation happens. Consumer behavior changes. Importantly, price signals play a huge role in communicating information to energy producers as well as consumers.

Higher prices at the pump encourages companies to extract and supply more oil. Expensive gas prices, meanwhile, motivate entrepreneurs to invest in alternatives to oil, whether that's batteries, natural gas vehicles or biofuels. Drivers will examine their consumption options as well, whether carpooling, finding alternative modes of transportation, or, over time, purchasing a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

Here we are, 19 years past Watt's arbitrary deadline, and drivers are pulling up to the pump saying, "Fill 'er up, buddy" (figuratively speaking, as Watts also didn't foresee self-service stations) without any cause for concern. Thanks to human ingenuity and the entrepreneurial drive of energy producers, the United States is now the world's largest oil producer according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration—and continually breaking records.

While global energy poverty and food insecurity remain a pressing challenge, the problem is getting much better, not worse. World Bank and United Nations data show extreme poverty and global hunger has noticeably dropped since 1970. And according to International Energy Agency, the number of people without access to electricity fell to below 1 billion people for the first time.

Clearly, there's work to be done. But signs are pointing in the right direction.

In the United States, the common perception is that the country's environmental state is deteriorating. On the contrary, through investment in new technologies, and through legislation, environmental trends have improved significantly in the United States. Pollutants known to cause harm to public health and the environment are declining. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's latest air quality trends report, the combined emissions of the six common air pollutants have decreased 73 percent between 1970-2017.

We should be thankful for economic liberties that provide people with the means to protect the environment. As a country grows economically, it increases the financial ability of its citizens and businesses to care for the environment and reduce pollutants emitted from industrial growth. Countries with greater economic freedoms have cleaner environments and greater environmental sustainability. The Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom and Yale University's Environmental Performance Index show a highly positive correlation between a country's environmental performance and its economic freedom.

Freer economies have access to more products and technologies that make our lives healthier and the environment cleaner. For instance, the availability of simple products such as soaps, cleaners, and detergents makes our homes dramatically cleaner and healthier. The development of sanitation systems and availability of garbage collection greatly reduce many types of diseases and reduce toxins in the air and water.

These products and services may not be what immediately comes to mind on Earth Day, but they've have an enormous impact on cleaning up the planet.

And we should be thankful for clearly defined and protected private property rights. One of the first lessons I learned in economics is that nobody washes a rental car—because you don't care for what you don't own.

Property rights are a central hallmark in the United States and around the world for improved environmental stewardship, conservation and health of species, wildlife, habitats, forests and other resources. The absence of enforced private property rights in developing country remains one of the largest barriers to improved prosperity and environmental well-being.

Catastrophic but unlikely gloom-and-doom predictions will continue to grab media headlines, but free societies with the protection of property rights are tried and true pathways to a healthier, cleaner world. As we reflect on the progress we've made as a free society, let's celebrate and be thankful.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Amazing but not surprising anymore

I have stopped being shocked at how elected government officials in the CNMI do questionable acts and get away with it. For example, how is it that the governor can just make up rules because he feels like it…and apparently get away with it? According to almost anyone you ask, the governor created the policy/rule that allows for Cabinet members to be paid overtime. By definition, they are exempt employees. Yet there is a whole list of Cabinet members receiving what's being called "overtime" compensation. In a television news interview on April 17, 2019, Virginia Villagomez implied that these people were "first responders." Seriously? She also said that the overtime money came from the general fund. She made no mention of the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA reimbursement, one of the stories being passed around to justify where this money is coming from.

Another question I have is how is it that the governor can in one breath talk about the prosperity of the Commonwealth and not even six months later put in place austerity measures because of economic shortfalls? And apparently get away with it.

In November, 2018, according to the governor, the CNMI was flush, there was plenty of money. Ask anybody! Today, less than six months later, the Commonwealth is broke; legislators can't even pay their staff. Austerity measures are in place with more being planned. Yet, the Commonwealth can pay "overtime" to Cabinet members. It's interesting how that works.

And those same legislators who can't get their staffs paid are ultimately responsible for the fiscal wellbeing of the CNMI. But they can't get the information needed to do their jobs. This leads me to think that they may not actually know what their jobs are. Perhaps, they need to go back to high school and learn how congressional style government is supposed to work. On second thought, never mind, no one's listening. However, though, it really is amazing, I'm no longer surprised.

John H. Davis
Fina Sisu, Saipan

20 YEARS

From Page 10

in Parkland, Fla.

After each incident, stunned and fearful school officials across the country began to rethink campus security. But even as they added armed security guards, fences and gates to campuses, locked exterior doors during school hours, and implemented "active shooter" drills for students and staff and more aggressive first-response strategies, more mass school shootings came. In fact, a new study from Ball State University found that investing hundreds of millions of dollars nationwide in security upgrades achieved little more than creating a false sense of safety.

So what are the solutions? Limiting access to firearms and providing better preventive help for troubled students are the obvious ones.

Guns, in particular, lie at the heart of the violence. From the time of the Columbine massacre through 2016, the U.S. manufactured 102 million firearms for domestic consumers (and imported an additional 600,000 guns from overseas gun makers). The industry is protected by the stubborn and cynical National Rifle Assn. and its allies, which make even modest attempts to control access to guns nearly impossible. The nation is awash in firearms, but as a culture, we're also awash in violence, which we romanticize in movies, television shows and music. Our police amass military-grade equipment as our neighbors build up personal arsenals, and rhetoric over gun control often descends into threats even as our violent crime rates overall have steadily declined.

Columbine, of course, bears no responsibility for any of that. In fact, it is a symptom. Such shootings outrage society, but not sufficiently to move the political needle on reforms to combat it. In fact, the opposite has happened: We've normalized the experience. When a shooting occurs, advocates for and against gun control unleash prepared rapid-response media blitzes that reinforce their supporters' existing beliefs, but fail to persuade opponents in what has become a ritualized dance around the graves of the newly dead.

It's as though as a society we have tacitly agreed to live our daily lives under the gun, despite wide popular political support for steps such as universal background checks and red flag laws allowing the confiscation of weapons from people believed by those closest to them to be a risk to themselves or others.

As a nation, we like to view ourselves as the freest society in the world, yet we have more guns and more killings than any other advanced nation, and our solution is to lock our students in their classrooms and arm their teachers. Education in a bunker is not a sane response to this problem. Two decades ago, the nation watched in horror as the unimaginable played out over national television.

Now we await the inevitable, having failed, ironically, to have learned much of anything from school lessons delivered in blood.

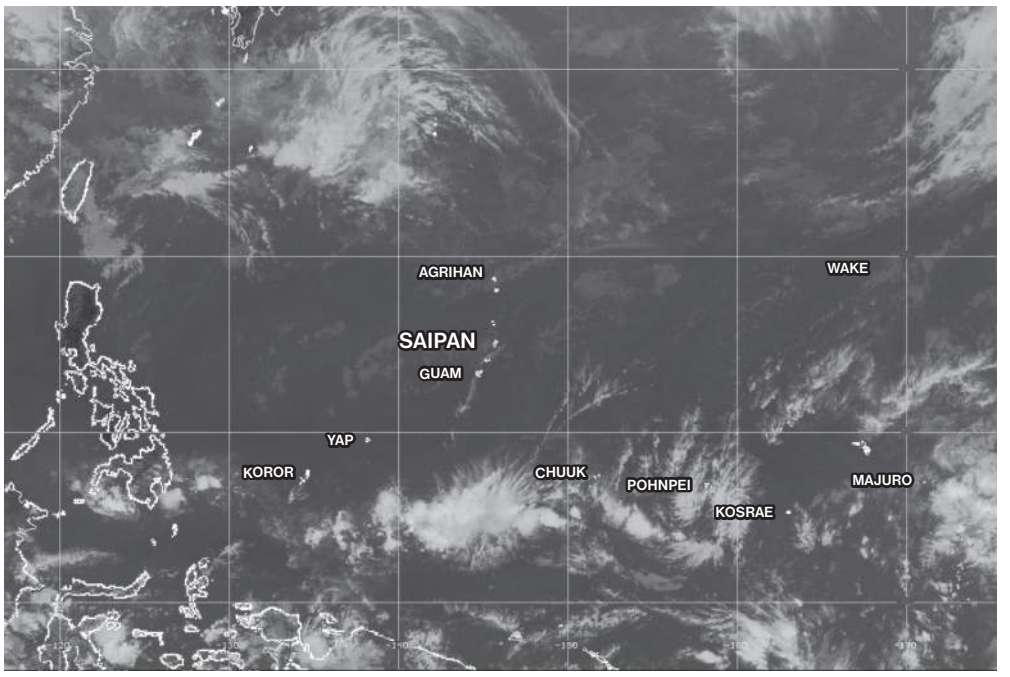
(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds and combined seas of 4 to 6 feet will persist the next several days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 71°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 72°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 59°
Manila	Sunny	99° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	72° / 58°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79° / 61°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Rome	Showers	72° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	82° / 55°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	75° / 52°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	79° / 61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:45 AM	LOW TIDE	0.84
8:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
4:04 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.24
10:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:07 AM	9:16 PM
Tuesday	-	8:56 AM	10:12 PM
Wednesday	-	9:46 AM	11:05 PM
Thursday	-	10:38 AM	11:56 PM
Friday	-	11:29 AM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

USCG celebrates Flag Day with A. Samoa leaders

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—American Samoa celebrated last Wednesday the day it officially became a U.S. territory, the 119th Flag Day.

Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, Coast Guard 14th District, command Master Chief Lori Fields, and Capt. Mike Long, commander Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, were on hand to participate in the festival events.

"From the day in 1900 when the U.S. Navy first established a naval base here, to when these islands became a U.S. territory the same year, through World War II, to today, American Samoa has served as a position of strategic strength for U.S. security and prosperity. From Navy and Coast Guard ships that call on the port of Pago Pago for fuel and other logistics, to the fishers and canneries that harvest and process tuna and feed the world," said Lunday.

American Samoans have served in the U.S. military around the world.

"There is no question that American Samoans are respected as great leaders and fierce warriors. They have volunteered and served in the U.S. military, including the Coast Guard, in more significant proportion and numbers than any other state or territory of the U.S. The Reserve units based here provide the military with vital capability and capacity in the event of mobilization. When it comes to service, they set the example for others to follow," said Lunday. "American Samoans continue to serve with distinction and sacrifice to preserve our way of life."

This participation includes involvement in every major conflict the U.S. has engaged over the past century, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When we talk of history, it is essential to step back and take stock and recognize that we are in the middle of a remarkable time of dynamic change and importance across the Indo-Pacific region. Moreover, American Samoa is in the center of it.

"The United States, our allies, and like-minded Pacific Island nations are working together to advance a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that excludes no nation," said Lunday. "We seek to reinforce a rules-based international order so that together, we can address the challenges that face us, and ensure prosperity for today and the future generations. Our vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific is essential to the security and well-being of not just the United States, but of all nations. Our ability to achieve that vision rests in the strength of our alliances with other countries, united in common purpose. So that strength relies on our shared values. It is respecting one another as equals, trusting in one another, sharing a commitment to faith, family, and community. With that foundation, together we can and will meet and overcome any challenge or adversity we face."

The theme of the 2019 Flag Day celebration is "To Prepare Our Youth for Future Challenges."

"I applaud the focus," said Lunday. "Certainly young people today face many of the same challenges that we met when we stood in their shoes, a few years ago. Well, perhaps it was more like many decades ago. However, because of today's increasingly complex world, young people today face more significant challenges in many ways than we did, perhaps problems we cannot even yet imagine. I am optimistic about the next generation. They inspire me daily by their strength and fearlessness. Also, we must prepare our youth for that challenging future. First by setting the example. Next by teaching them. Finally, by honoring our heritage to reinforce our values. So today, this celebration, is an integral part of that preparation."

LYDIA FALEAFINE-NOMURA

Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander Coast Guard 14th District, joins acting governor Lemanu Mauga and first lady Cynthia Moliga April 17, 2019, to celebrate the 119th anniversary of American Samoa becoming a U.S. territory, also known as Flag Day.

LT. VICTORIA LACEFIELD-RODRIGUEZ

Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander Coast Guard 14th District, foreground, speaks at the 119th Flag Day ceremony in American Samoa, commemorating the day they officially became a U.S. territory in 1900, April 17, 2019.

Lunday was one of several U.S. federal government representatives in the territory for the observance of the annual holiday. The Coast Guard 14th District spans the Central and South Pacific. The regional footprint includes the crew of Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa, led by Lt. Al Blaisdell and Frank Thomsen, who call Pago Pago their home. A robust Coast Guard Auxiliary made up of volunteers also supports missions each day. American Samoa is one of five U.S. territories. The other four are Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Three of the five are in the Coast Guard 14th District.

American Samoa is a U.S. territory covering seven South Pacific islands and atolls. Tutuila, the largest island, is home to the capital Pago Pago, featuring a natural deepwater harbor framed by volcanic peaks tropical rainforests, beaches, and reefs. It is home to more than 55,000 people. Pacific tuna is a primary export and active economic driver. ***(USCG)***

Guam residents encouraged to be kind to unique and endangered marine life

ASAN, Guam—Federal and local environmental experts are raising awareness about proper care and appropriate safety precautions around marine animals in Guam's waters.

"All marine life, including sea turtles, are to be protected," said Naval Base Guam Environmental Program Director Ed Moon. "We are encouraging residents to appreciate our marine animals from a safe distance and avoid feeding them." According to Moon, while the practice of feeding sea turtles may seem harmless, and even helpful, it can have a host of negative consequences, including physical harm to those doing the feeding.

As part of the Navy's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, NAVFAC Marianas and Naval Base Guam environmental experts teamed with representatives of other concerned agencies - the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Guam Customs and Quarantine, and Guam Division of Wildlife and Aquatic Resources to help raise awareness through youth presentations and group discussions. The team presented on April 4 at the Naval Base Guam Teen Center with approximately 50 island students in attendance.

The environmentalists said for safety reasons everyone should do their part to avoid disturbing and feeding these unique and endangered aquatic animals.

"Hawksbill turtles, in particular, can lose their fear of humans after a while," Moon said. "They may be friendly when people start to feed them, but then they can become aggressive and might even bite someone."

If they are fed regularly by humans, they may become dependent on this food source and when it stops marine life face malnourishment. Additionally, unfamiliar or processed food may not provide the nutrients the animals need, also leading to malnutrition or other health problems. Human food may even be toxic for the sea animals. Furthermore, sea animals can become entangled in plastic wrappers, bags, can holders and other containers that accompany human food, causing suffocation or hindering mobility and the ability to feed and protect themselves.

Experts warn that it is illegal under the Endangered Species Act to feed or otherwise disturb sea turtles or other endangered sea life in their natural habitat. Anyone attempting to do so may face penalties or legal action.

"There are many different and amazing animals in the ocean," said Chuck Raterman, special agent with NOAA. "Enjoy them from a distance and help keep Guam the wonderful place it is." ***(USN)***

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration special agent Charles Raterman, Guam customs officer Ike Reyes, NOAA enforcement officer John Evangelista, (former) Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas Natural Resources specialist Tammy Summers, and Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources biologist C.J. Cayanan display some of the messaging used to educate the public about the harm caused by feeding or disturbing marine life in their natural habitat.

Business

Corporate America embraces 420 as pot legalization grows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marijuana users have for decades celebrated their love of the drug on April 20, but the once counter-culture celebration that was all about getting stoned now is so mainstream Corporate America is starting to embrace it.

No, Hallmark doesn't yet have a card to mark "420." But many other businesses inside and outside the multibillion-dollar cannabis industry are using April 20, or 4/20, to roll out marketing and social media messaging aimed at connecting with consumers driving the booming market.

On Saturday, Lyft is offering a $4.20 credit on a single ride in Colorado and in select cities in the U.S. and Canada. Carl's Jr. is using a Denver restaurant to market a hamburger infused with CBD, a non-intoxicating molecule found in cannabis that many believe is beneficial to their health.

On 420 last year, Totino's, a maker of frozen pizza snacks, tweeted an image of a microwave and an oven with the message: "To be blunt, pizza rolls are better when baked."

"I think brands that associate themselves with cannabis kind of get that contact high. In other words, they're just considered to be cooler by association," said Kit Yarrow, consumer psychologist at Golden Gate University. "As pot becomes more legal, more discussed, more interesting to people, more widely used, then 420 becomes more mainstream as well."

Marijuana normalization has snowballed since 2012, when Colorado and Washington were the first states to legalize recreational use. Eight more followed, including California, Oregon and Michigan. Medical marijuana is legal in two-thirds of the states, with conservative-leaning Utah and Oklahoma among recent additions.

Meantime, the CBD market has exploded. CBD oil can be found in candies, coffee and other food, drinks and dietary supplements, along with perfume, lotions, creams and soap. Proponents say CBD helps with pain, anxiety and inflammation, though limited scientific research supports those claims.

U.S. retail sales of cannabis products jumped to $10.5 billion last year, a threefold increase from 2017, according to data from Arcview Group, a cannabis investment and market research firm. The figures do not include retail sales of hemp-derived CBD products.

Ben & Jerry's was one of the earliest big brands to foster a connection with the marijuana culture through marketing. The Vermont-based ice cream company features Cherry Garcia and Phish Food, honoring late Grateful Dead member Jerry Garcia and the band Phish. Both bands are favorites of the marijuana-smoking crowd.

To mark 420 in recent years, Ben & Jerry's debuted taco and burrito inspired ice cream sandwiches. This year the company partnered with a San Francisco Bay Area cannabis retailer to give customers who place delivery orders on Friday and Saturday a free pint of Half Baked, a combination of cookie dough and fudge brownie.

"We have a lot of fun, never being overt, but really playing into the moment of 420," said Jay Curley, the company's global head of integrated marketing.

Last year, Ben & Jerry's also turned more serious, asking consumers to call on lawmakers to expunge prior marijuana convictions and press for pardons or amnesty for anyone arrested for smoking pot. This year the company is using the holiday to call for criminal justice reform.

"We're actually using this as an opportunity not to tell a stoner joke like we have in the past, but to raise what we see as a much more serious issue around justice," Curley said.

Those in the marijuana marketplace also are ramping up advertising around 420. Much of the marketing about cannabis or related products takes the form of online ads, emails, text messages and social media. Shops typically offer discounts. Some host parties with food and entertainment. The larger 420 events can draw thousands of people.

AP

In this Saturday, April 21, 2018 file photo a bud tender offers attendees the latest products of cannabis at the High Times 420 SoCal Cannabis Cup in San Bernardino, Calif.

Report: FTC considering oversight of Facebook's Zuckerberg

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are reportedly considering seeking some kind of oversight of Mark Zuckerberg's leadership of Facebook over the social network giant's mishandling of users' personal information.

Discussions between Facebook and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission officials about its data-handing lapses have touched on holding the CEO personally accountable, The Washington Post reported Friday. Zuckerberg controls a majority of Facebook's voting stock and has run the company since starting it at Harvard in 2004.

The Post quoted two anonymous sources familiar with the discussions. It said putting restraints on Zuckerberg could send a message to other tech giants that the FTC could hold their executives accountable for privacy misdeeds.

The FTC had no comment and Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The commission opened an investigation into Facebook last year after revelations that data mining firm Cambridge Analytica had gathered details on as many as 87 million Facebook users without their permission.

The FTC has been examining whether that massive breakdown violated a settlement that Facebook reached in 2011 after government regulators concluded the Menlo Park, California, company had repeatedly broken its privacy promises to users, who now number 2.3 billion globally.

The FTC decree, which runs through 2031, requires that Facebook get its users' consent to share their personal information in ways that aren't allowed by their privacy settings.

The Post previously reported the FTC is considering hitting Facebook with a multibillion-dollar fine. That would top its previous record fine of $22.5 million, which it dealt to Google in 2012 for bypassing the privacy controls in Apple's Safari browser.

Facebook has in the past year been buffeted by media coverage highlighting what critics call a cavalier attitude toward protecting user privacy and data—and in failing to prevent the dissemination of hate speech and misinformation on the biggest communications medium in history.

On Thursday, its Instagram subsidiary said in a blog post that millions more users were affected by a password security lapse than Facebook acknowledged when announcing the problem nearly four weeks ago.

In the initial announcement it had said tens of thousands of passwords were stored on the site in plain text, meaning company employees could search them.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Climate protesters march in London again; arrests hit 710

LONDON (AP)—London police say more than 710 people have been arrested and some 28 have been charged since climate change protests began earlier this week in the British capital. The Extinction Rebellion protests started Monday and have at times paralyzed parts of London, with peaceful demonstrations at Waterloo Bridge, Oxford Circus and other key landmarks. Protesters were out again Saturday, urging the British government to make fighting climate change its top priority. London police have taken a cautious approach rather than a massive show of force to remove the demonstrators, saying they respect the right to peaceful protest. They still had to ask neighboring forces for some 200 additional officers to help cope with the situation, and many officers had their weekend leaves cancelled.

Arkansas unemployment falls to 3.7% in March after job gains

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Unemployment in Arkansas fell to 3.7% in March following a third straight month in the number of people who have jobs in the state. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said Friday that Arkansas' unemployment rate dropped from 3.8% in February. The national unemployment rate was 3.8% in March, unchanged from February. Susan Price of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that there were 2,079 more Arkansans employed in March than there were in February. In the past three months, the number of employed Arkansans has risen by 3,800. Mervin Jebaraj, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, says a survey of Arkansas businesses indicates that the state has gained about 9,900 jobs in the past year.

Toyota, SoftBank fund, Denso invest $1 billion in Uber

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's top automaker Toyota, auto parts maker Denso and internet company SoftBank's investment fund are investing $1 billion in car-sharing Uber's technology unit. The Japanese companies said Friday that Toyota Motor Corp. and Denso Corp. will together invest $667 million and SoftBank Corp.'s Vision Fund will contribute $333 million in Uber Technologies Inc.'s new entity, Advanced Technologies Group, or Uber ATG, which will try to develop and commercialize automated ride-sharing services. The move comes as Toyota steps up such efforts, including investing $500 million in Uber, based in San Francisco, and setting up a $20 million joint venture with SoftBank to create mobility services, both announced last year. Toyota also promised to contribute up to $300 million more over the next three years for developing next-generation autonomous vehicles and services. Toyota Executive Vice President Shigeki Tomoyama said working together will help bring down costs and speed up development. Uber Chief Executive Dara Khosrowshahi expressed hope that the deal, set to close by the third quarter, will help maintain Uber's leading position in the technology.

Nation

Columbine honors 13 lost with community service, ceremony

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—Community members in suburban Denver marked the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting Saturday with a remembrance ceremony that celebrated the school's survival and by volunteering at shelters, doing neighborhood cleanup projects and laying flowers and cards at a memorial to the 13 people killed.

"We're changed," Dawn Anna, whose daughter Lauren Townsend was among the students killed in the school's library, said before a crowd of more than 2,000 gathered in a park near the high school. "We're weaker in some places, but hopefully we're stronger in most of them. Our hearts have giant holes in them. But our hearts are bigger than they were 20 years ago."

The events ended a three-day slate of somber gatherings honoring the victims and lending support to their families, survivors of the April 20, 1999, attack and the school's students and staff. The decades since have brought similar violence at schools in America, and some survivors and victims' families have found themselves acting as a support system for those affected by other tragedies.

Speakers on Saturday portrayed healing and recovery as the result of daily work—not a destination to be arrived at in a set amount of days, weeks or years.

Forgiveness, though, is achievable, said Patrick Ireland, a student who became known as "the boy in the window" when cameras captured him dangling from a second-story window before falling during the 1999 school shooting. He re-learned to walk and talk with months of physical and cognitive therapy.

"Our innocence was stolen," Ireland said. "How can that ever be repaid? But forgiveness is a process. It takes time. It takes practice, repetition, translating that rhythm into moving."

The afternoon ceremony at times had the feel of a reunion. Former students introduced classmates to their husbands or wives and the crowd jumped to their feet when a retired teacher led a call-and-response cheer of the school's mantra.

"We are" Ivory Moore yelled, his voice straining.

"Columbine!" the crowd replied, some pumping their fists in the air.

There were tears too, particularly as photos of the victims at various ages flashed across a projector screen during a video that featured current Columbine students pledging to honor them with community service each year on April 20.

At the ceremony's end, Frank DeAngelis, the school's principal at the time of the shooting, read the 13 names aloud in a wavering voice. A bell rang 13 times, and white doves soared into the cloudy sky for each individual.

Starting in the morning, a steady stream of visitors stopped at a memorial that sits on a hill overlooking the school. The site includes an oval outer wall of stone with plaques featuring quotes from officials and Columbine students and teachers, and an inner ring with plaques for each person killed.

People walked silently through, occasionally stopping to hug a friend or wipe away tears.

Sharon and David Hampton brought white roses to place at the memorial, which opened to the public in 2007. They have lived in the area for more than 30 years and watched three sons graduate from Columbine.

AP

Attendees hug during a program for the victims of the massacre at Columbine High School 20 years ago Saturday, April 20, 2019, in Littleton, Colo.

ACROSS THE NATION

Oklahoma woman accused of starving kids, feeding them feces

JAY, Okla. (AP)—An Oklahoma mother has been charged with child neglect, accused of starving her children and feeding them dog feces. The Tulsa World reports that 34-year-old Mary Elizabeth Moore was charged in Delaware County court this month. The children, aged 5 and 3, are severely malnourished and have been placed on a special diet with nasal feeding tubes. They are in state custody. An affidavit says the older child told Department of Human Services workers that she ate dog feces. The arresting officer noted the child had parasitic pinworms. The girl also told investigators that her mother's boyfriend "throws bottles" at her younger sibling. The affidavit says Moore denied starving her children and feeding them dog feces. Her court-appointed attorney, Lee Griffin, didn't immediately return a phone call Saturday seeking comment.

Video caught woman dumping 7 puppies behind California store

COACHELLA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities are trying to identify a woman captured by security cameras tossing seven newborn puppies into a dumpster in Southern California. The Riverside County Department of Animal Services released surveillance video of the woman pulling up to a dumpster behind an auto parts store in Coachella Thursday afternoon. The video shows her stepping out of a white Jeep, peering into a dumpster used for recyclables before dropping a plastic bag into the trash dumpster and driving away. A man who rummaged through the trash shortly afterward spotted the bag and took it to the store. Authorities said the puppies, believed to be 3-day-old terrier mixes, may not have survived the 90-degree heat had they not been found within an hour of being dumped.

Zookeeper hospitalized after tiger attack at Topeka Zoo

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—City officials say a tiger mauled a zookeeper at the Topeka Zoo in northeastern Kansas. The Topeka Capital-Journal reports the incident happened around 9:30 a.m. Saturday, when a Sumatran tiger named Sanjiv tackled the worker in an enclosed outdoor space. Topeka Zoo director Brendan Wiley says the zookeeper suffered lacerations and puncture wounds to her head, neck and back. Wiley says she was awake and alert when she was taken by ambulance to a hospital and was in stable condition Saturday afternoon. The zookeeper's name has not been released. Wiley says the tiger will not be euthanized. The zoo was open at the time of the attack and was witnessed by some people. It reopened about 45 minutes after the attack. Officials are investigating what led up to the attack. Sanjiv came to the Topeka Zoo in August 2017 from a zoo in Akron, Ohio.

Trump's legal team breathes a sigh, takes a victory lap

WASHINGTON (AP)—First they cooperated. Then they stonewalled. Their television interviews were scattershot and ridiculed, their client mercurial and unreliable.

But President Donald Trump's legal team, through a combination of bluster, legal precedent and shifting tactics, managed to protect their client from a potentially perilous in-person interview during special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation . His lawyers are taking a victory lap after a redacted version of Mueller's findings revealed politically damaging conduct by the president but drew no conclusions of criminal behavior.

"Our strategy came to be that when we weren't talking, we were losing," Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's lawyers, told The Associated Press in a recent interview. Given that Mueller could not indict a sitting president, Giuliani said, the team kept its focus on Mueller's "capacity to report, so we had to play in the media as well as legally."

The aftershocks from the Mueller report released Thursday will help shape the next two years of Trump's administration. But while the report may cause some Democrats to take a renewed look at impeachment despite long odds of success in Congress, the legal threat to Trump that seemed so dangerous upon Mueller's appointment in May 2017 has waned.

At the outset, that appointment led Trump to predict "the end of my presidency." The White House struggled to recruit top Washington attorneys, many of whom were reluctant to work for a temperamental, scandal-prone president who repeatedly claimed he would be his own best legal mind.

The initial strategy of the Trump legal team, including White House attorney Ty Cobb and personal defense lawyer John Dowd, was to be as cooperative as possible with Mueller's prosecutors and ensure that investigators got access to the documents they requested and the witnesses they wanted to interview. The Trump lawyers hoped to bring about a quick conclusion to the investigation.

Believing he could exonerate himself, Trump initially expressed a willingness to sit for an interview with Mueller's team. A date was set for that to take place at Camp David. But then the president's lawyers moved away from the plan, in part by arguing that the special counsel already had gotten answers to his questions.

"It became the most transparent investigation in history," Jay Sekulow, one of the president's personal lawyers, said in an interview.

Still, there was internal tumult along the way, including the March 2018 departure of Dowd, a veteran and experienced criminal defense attorney, and the additions of Giuliani and the husband-wife team of Martin and Jane Raskin.

Even as the legal team professed cooperation with Mueller's prosecutors, the lawyers expressed impatience, frustration and skepticism in a series of private letters that challenged the credibility of the government's witnesses and the demands to interview the president.

Asia

Devotees nailed to crosses on Good Friday in PH

AP

Ruben Enaje, center, dressed as Jesus, is seen nailed on cross for the 33rd year in a row during a reenactment of Jesus Christ's sufferings as part of Good Friday rituals in the village of San Pedro Cutud, Pampanga province, northern Philippines. Friday, April 19, 2019.

SAN PEDRO CUTUD, Philippines (AP)—Several Roman Catholic devotees were nailed to wooden crosses in a gory Good Friday ritual in the Philippines, and others flogged themselves or took part in religious plays to reenact Jesus Christ's suffering.

Four men and a woman, some wearing crowns of twigs, were escorted by villagers dressed as Roman centurions and nailed to crosses on a dusty hill in San Pedro Cutud village. Similar reenactments played out in nearby farming towns in the northern Philippines.

Thousands, including many tourists, watch the annual spectacle. The Catholic Church frowns upon it, instead calling on the faithful to mark Lent with prayers and acts of charity.

"We're from Poland, so it's also a Catholic country but there is nothing like that. It's much more peaceful and quiet," said visitor Magdalena Tyburcy.

Prior to the reenacted crucifixions, dozens of barefoot penitents beat their bare backs with sharp bamboo sticks and wood. Some had their backs with razors cut to keep them bloody.

Sterilized nails are used in the rituals, and after they are lowered from the crosses, the devotees are checked by medical workers to make sure they are no complications from their injuries.

Painter Ruben Enaje, 59, was nailed to the cross for the 33rd time as part of giving thanks after surviving a fall from a building.

"Next year, I'm going to be a senior. Our bones are a bit different, you start to get hurt. I'll just pass down (this tradition) to someone younger than me," he said.

Another regular, Mary Jane Sazon, marked her 16th time on the cross.

"When I do this devotion, my prayers come true. Then I stopped. I started having health problems again, so I joined the crucifixion again. I felt that through my devotion, whatever illness I feel goes away," said Sazon.

The Philippines is Asia's largest Catholic nation.

Other Lent traditions include street plays with devotees reenacting the Way of the Cross and a marathon chanting of the Pasyon, a Philippine narrative of the suffering of Christ.

Japan courts Trump using emperor, first lady's birthday

TOKYO (AP)—Without close friends in Asia, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appears to be using every opportunity, even the emperor's accession, to court President Donald Trump.

Abe is scheduling a rushed visit to Washington to meet with Trump and celebrate first lady's birthday, and then is inviting him to be first foreign leader to meet the new emperor, the two countries announced Friday.

Tokyo and Washington said that Trump and first lady Melania Trump will make a state visit to Japan at the end of May, just weeks after Crown Prince Naruhito ascends Japan's Chrysanthemum throne. Naruhito's 85-year-old father, Emperor Akihito, is ending his three-decade reign on April 30 by abdicating.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said receiving Trump as the first state guest of the new imperial era would "symbolize the unshakable bond of the Japan-U.S. alliance."

Japanese officials are also arranging for Trump to watch the final day of a sumo wrestling tournament on May 26 so he can present a trophy to the winner. Trump may also travel to a Japanese naval base in Yokosuka west of Tokyo to see a destroyer that is planned for refitting as Japan's first postwar aircraft carrier, and play a round of golf with Abe, Japanese officials and media reports said.

Abe, experts say, is taking every opportunity to court Trump as Japan tries to stay out of the U.S. leader's crosshairs, unlike some other world leaders who have upset him on trade and other issues.

"I'm not sure what other choices this administration, or any Japanese administration, has except to try to build the best relationship possible with Washington through face-to-face interaction," said Stephen Nagy, a politics and international studies professor at International Christian University in Tokyo. "I think Mr. Trump being the first to meet the emperor is a good example of that."

Relations between Japan and two of its closest neighbors, South Korea and China, remain strained over their war history and territorial disputes.

In February, Trump said Abe had nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to denuclearize North Korea. Abe did not deny the claim, triggering criticism from opposition lawmakers that his apparent effort to please Trump was embarrassing.

Abe has managed to largely stay on good terms with Trump by assiduously avoiding criticism of the U.S. leader. "You never hear criticisms out of Japan ... that has been very characteristic of the Abe administration," Nagy said. "I think he has done well because he hasn't insulted Mr. Trump to cause problems."

Abe was also the first foreign leader to meet Trump after his election in November 2016, not even waiting until he officially took office as is normal diplomatic practice, and gave him a special golf driver.

Hiro Aida, professor of global studies at Aoyama Gakuin University and an expert on Japan-U.S. relations, said Abe is jumping at the opportunity of the emperor's succession after his ties with Trump were seen to be weakening as the U.S. leader came down hard on trade issues, demanding that Japan do more to reduce the countries' trade imbalance.

"Inviting Trump in May to meet the new emperor would be a perfect chance for Abe to show how much he cares about Trump, while also showing their relationship off to the world," Aida said.

Abe may be also demonstrating his political power over Naruhito by sending the message that he can decide whom the emperor meets. Aida, however, said the choice of Trump amid continuing investigations into his administration's ties with Russia may hurt Naruhito's image.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Explosions hit 2 churches in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Two explosions hit two churches in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, wounding at least 50 people, witnesses said. The first blast ripped through St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo. Alex Agileson, who was in the vicinity, said buildings in the surrounding area shook with the blast. He said a number of injured were carried in ambulances. A second explosion was reported at St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, a Catholic majority town north of Colombo. The church has appealed for help on its Facebook page. Sri Lankan security officials said they were checking for details. Police immediately rushed to both areas and sealed off the churches. Local media reported some 50 people with different injuries had so far been admitted in Colombo's main hospital.

Pakistan says Iran-based group carried out deadly attack

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A group of militants crossed the border from neighboring Iran earlier this week and carried out a deadly attack against Pakistan armed forces in southwestern Baluchistan province, killing 14, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The ministry said in a letter to the Iranian government that the assailants were from a newly formed Baluch separatist group, Raji Aajoi Sangar, and that they were based in Iran's adjacent Baluchistan province. It urged Iran to act against the attackers who had fled back across the border. Groups operating within Pakistan's and Iran's Baluchistan provinces, which share a long border, seek independence from both countries. The ministry said the "killing of 14 innocent Pakistanis by terrorist groups based in Iran is a very serious incident that Pakistan protests strongly." The announcement came a day before Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Iran. Despite lodging a protest with Tehran over the attack, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters that the planned two-day visit, beginning Sunday, was intact and that Khan will take up the matter of Thursday's killings with Iranian authorities.

Malaysia to revive 2nd major China-linked project

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government said it will resurrect a multibillion-dollar property and transportation project in Kuala Lumpur involving a Chinese state company, calling it a contribution to China's global "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is traveling to China next week to attend the second Belt and Road forum, said Friday the Cabinet agreed to reinstate the Bandar Malaysia project, which is expected to cost 140 billion ringgit ($33.8 billion). It comes a week after Malaysia resumed a China-backed rail link project after the Chinese contractor agreed to cut the construction cost by one third to 44 billion ringgit ($10.6 billion). Mahathir said that both projects will boost ties with China and add economic value. He said that Bandar Malaysia, which is 40% owned by the government, will be developed with the same consortium partners, Malaysian developer Iskandar Waterfront Holdings and China Railway Engineering Corp. The 500-acre (202-hectare) project will boost urban development and serve as a hub to woo global finance, technology and entrepreneurial firms, he added. Bandar Malaysia was started by the indebted 1MDB state investment fund in 2011 but it later sold a 60% stake to the consortium. The government took over 1MDB's stake due to its debt problems, but the project was terminated by the previous government in May 2017 due to a payment dispute with the consortium.

World

‘I’m going to die’: Survivor recounts Mali ethnic massacre

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The sun had yet to rise and Ada Diallo was preparing for morning prayers when gunfire rang out in her village in central Mali. The 55-year-old ran through the darkness to the home of the local spiritual leader.

Inside, some 50 women cowered in a single room, praying for their lives.

They had been caught in the deadliest attack yet of a new conflict in the West African nation, one driven by fear and suspicion over alleged ties to extremist groups that have moved in from the vast, arid north. The insecurity crisis has become so serious that Mali’s prime minister on Thursday resigned.

The attack late last month killed 154 people in Diallo’s village, which is dominated by the Muslim Peuhl ethnic group. The ethnic Dogon militia suspected in the massacre accuses Peuhls of collaborating with extremists, a charge they deny. The militia leader in turn denies that his fighters, suspected by some Peuhls of collaborating with Mali’s military, carried out the attack.

As both sides urge Mali’s government to restore peace to the increasingly troubled region after hundreds of deaths last year alone, Diallo’s description of the attack, told to The Associated Press, brought the horror to life.

AP
In this April 1, 2019 photo, Ada Diallo recounts a massacre that killed more than 150 people in her village in late March in Bamako, Mali.

Five minutes after she took shelter with other women that morning, the attackers arrived on their doorstep.

“They opened the windows and started firing indiscriminately while others tried to make holes in the walls of the house so that they could shoot us too,” Diallo recalled. “Then the men who had been firing on us from the window threw a bottle filled with petrol and it landed 3 meters (yards) from me.”

Amid the terror, she found the strength to make her way to the door. Moments later there was an explosion and the house caught fire.

Running past bodies strewn on the dirt path, she reached another hiding spot.

“I told myself: ‘If I stay here, I’m going to die.’ So I gathered my courage and I decided to run again. I started to hear more gunshots and so I hid again, this time among two dead men. One had been decapitated by a knife and one had been killed by gunfire.”

She eventually found another spot where about 20 wounded women were gathered. They made their way into the countryside, many still barefoot.

From their hiding place in the forest, they watched their village burn for more than three hours.

Around 9 a.m., the women saw several Malian military vehicles arriving and they headed back to the village. As Diallo got closer to her home she started to run, fearing for her husband, Moussa, whom she had not seen in hours.

“When I got there, I found the body of my husband and that of our neighbor,” she said. “I cried with all my might: ‘This is an innocent man, an elderly man who has never harmed others.’”

Other survivors had found her husband’s national identity card, now covered in blood. They handed it to her along with a 5,000 CFA bill ($9) found in his pocket as she wailed in grief.

“We had done nothing wrong and look what happened to us,” said Diallo, who is among more than 200 village residents who now live elsewhere with the support of aid groups.

“My husband, 65 years old, an old man, was just slaughtered with all these other people like a chicken. I am disappointed that our government did nothing to protect us.”

Police: ‘New breed’ of terrorists in Northern Ireland

LONDON (AP)—Police in Northern Ireland arrested two teenagers Saturday in connection with the fatal shooting of a young journalist during rioting in the city of Londonderry and warned of a “new breed” of terrorists threatening the peace.

The men, aged 18 and 19, were detained under anti-terrorism legislation and taken to Belfast for questioning, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said. The men have not been identified or charged.

Authorities believe one man pulled the trigger during the chaotic rioting that began Thursday night but had organizational support.

Lyra McKee, 29, a rising star of investigative journalism, was shot and killed, police say probably by a stray bullet aimed at police, during the rioting. Police said the New IRA dissident group was most likely responsible and called it a “terrorist act.”

The use of a firearm apparently aimed at police marks a dangerous escalation in sporadic violence that continues to plague Northern Ireland 21 years after the Good Friday peace agreement was signed. The New IRA group rejects the peace agreement.

Chief detective Jason Murphy warned Saturday that the situation on the ground has become more dangerous, even though community attitudes have changed since the peace agreement and the use of violence is viewed as abhorrent by the vast majority.

“What we are seeing is a new breed of terrorist coming through the ranks and that for me is a very worrying situation,” he said.

The riot followed a pattern familiar to those who lived through the worst years of violence in Northern Ireland. Police arrived in the city’s Creggan neighborhood to search for weapons and dissidents. They were barraged with gasoline bombs and other flying objects, then someone wearing a black mask appeared, fired some shots and fled.

No police were struck by the bullets, but McKee—who had been trying to film the riot on her phone—was hit. The journalist was rushed to a nearby hospital in a police car but still died.

Police on Friday night released closed-circuit TV footage showing the man suspected of firing the shots that killed McKee and appealed for help from the public in identifying him.

The killing was condemned by all the major political parties as well as the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland.

The European Union’s chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said the killing was “a reminder of how fragile peace still is in Northern Ireland” and called for work to preserve the Good Friday peace agreement.

Some politicians believe uncertainty over Britain’s impending departure from the EU and the possible re-introduction of a “hard border” between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are stoking tensions in the region.

The victim was mourned by friends and the wider community. She rose to prominence in 2014 with a moving blog post—“Letter to my 14 year old self”—describing the struggle of growing up gay in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. She also had recently signed a contract to write two books.

New attack on Ebola center in Congo; 1 militia member killed

BUTEMBO, Congo (AP)—Militia members attacked an Ebola treatment center hours after another attack killed a staffer with the World Health Organization, a Congolese official said Saturday.

Butembo city’s deputy mayor, Patrick Kambale Tsiko, told The Associated Press that the attackers armed with machetes tried to burn down the center in Katwa district overnight. Military and police guarding the center killed one militia member and detained five others, he said.

Such violence has deeply complicated efforts to contain what has become the second-deadliest Ebola virus outbreak in history, with the number of new cases jumping each time treatment and prevention work is disrupted.

An attack on Friday on a hospital in Butembo killed an epidemiologist from Cameroon who had been deployed to the outbreak in eastern Congo. Tsiko cited witnesses as saying the attackers wrongly blamed foreigners for bringing the deadly virus to the region.

This outbreak now has more than 1,300 confirmed and probable cases, including 855 deaths, since being declared last August. The number of new cases has risen alarmingly in recent weeks after other attacks, leading the WHO to convene an expert committee that decided the outbreak, while of “deep concern,” is not yet a global health emergency .

Attacks by rebel groups and community resistance have posed serious challenges to containing Ebola, which can spread quickly and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases. Congo’s North Kivu region had never faced an outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever before, and health workers have battled misinformation. Some residents did not believe Ebola was real .

In the hospital attack on Friday, gunmen burst into a conference room and forced people onto the floor, taking their belongings and “accusing them of perpetuating false rumors about Ebola,” according to a statement by IMA World Health, a Washington-based aid group that supports the hospital. The gunmen then shot the Cameroonian doctor in the abdomen and left, firing into the air and sending staff and patients fleeing.

Friday’s attack was at least the fourth on an IMA World Health-supported facility involved in Ebola response efforts, the statement said. Four days earlier, attackers looted a nearby clinic and briefly kidnapped a nurse. The clinic remains closed.

While the new attack on the treatment center in Katwa is the first by militia members, it has been attacked a number of times by anxious families who sought to claim the bodies of loved ones who died of the disease.

Ebola is spread by the bodily fluids of those infected and showing symptoms, including the dead, and some residents have bristled at safe burial practices that contradict their traditional, hands-on ones.

Others try to avoid treatment if they fall ill.

“The fear of being forcibly hospitalized adds to the poor public image of Ebola treatment centers,” Natalie Roberts, head of emergencies for the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, wrote earlier this month. “These structures are associated with a life-threatening illness, isolation and the use of protective equipment which makes the staff unrecognizable and intimidating.”

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

QUINN ON NUTRITION

Small steps for big results

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

You may have seen the ads, "You in the Honda. Put down the donut." That's just one innovative approach of Montage Health, a non-profit health entity that includes the hospital I've been affiliated with for many years. In its annual report, this health organization issued a lofty challenge: "Let's make Monterey the healthiest county in the state." (It's currently ranked No. 22.)

To be sure, great healthcare is a big part of keeping citizens fit. In fact, says Montage Health, "our greatest dream is to keep you out of the hospital."

Yet each of us individually has a big part to play as well. As health care moves from go-see-the-doctor-when-you're-sick mode to I-want-to-feel-as-good-as-I can-every-day model, we have some work to do.

No matter where we live, say experts, a few simple steps can reap big rewards to our health…if we practice them most days. Here are some practical suggestions from Montage that can pack a wallop of health into our busy bodies:

■ **Drink more water.** As mentioned in last week's column, body cells work most efficiently to produce energy when they are well hydrated. Dress up plain water with slices of lemon, orange, berries or other fruit.

■ **Get out of my chair.** Health experts say that some activity (at least 10 minutes at a time) is better than none. And regular physical activity is one of the most important things we can do to optimize our health, according to the latest research summarized in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

■ **Eat greens every day.** "Greens" includes dark-green leafy vegetables (salad, anyone?) such as broccoli, spinach, romaine, kale, collard, turnip, and mustard greens. Raw or cooked or raw, either is fine.

■ **Spend less time on my phone.** Believe it or not, we sometimes function better when we disconnect from all the chatter.

■ **Go to bed earlier.** Sleep is when the body restores itself at the cellular level and damaging stress hormones are turned off. Plan at least 8 hours a day for this health-promoting activity.

■ **Do not eat at my desk.** Ouch. Take at least 20 minutes to focus on relaxed eating. The world can live without you for that long.

■ **Spend more time outside.** Got that one. I am happily writing this column on the back porch with my puppy asleep under my chair.

■ **Enjoy a backyard barbecue every once in a while.** It's summer! And good evidence says we tend to ingest more health-promoting nutrients when we share meals with friends and family.

Find other ideas for making your community healthier at www.HealthierMontereyCounty.org.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.)

Why are women losing the battle of the bulge?

By ALLIE SHAH
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—Frances Traphagan has been battling weight issues her whole life.

For years, the south Minneapolis mom struggled to balance work demands and motherhood. After every pregnancy, her weight problem grew. Her habit of eating on the run also tipped the scales in the wrong direction.

Finally, at 240 pounds, the 5-foot-3 Traphagan chose to have bariatric surgery at the Hennepin Bariatric Center and Obesity Program at Hennepin County Medical Center in downtown Minneapolis.

"It was my very last effort to try to lose weight," she said.

She'd tried everything before that — from Weight Watchers to the Atkins diet to the grapefruit diet.

"I did have some success, but nothing was ever permanent," she said.

After a national report this summer showed that women have surpassed men in obesity rates, doctors and obesity researchers are searching for answers to why women are struggling more than men.

For the first time, more than 40 percent of U.S. women are obese, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The nation as a whole continues to struggle with obesity, with 35 percent of men considered obese. But while men's obesity rates appear to have stabilized, women's are still rising, the CDC report shows.

Dr. Maria Collazo-Clavell, an endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic who works with overweight and obese patients, has been working in the obesity research field for 20 years. She said the recent findings give her pause about whether public health officials are taking the right approach to tackling obesity.

"All of that makes you question: Are you on the right track?" she said. "The data would say no."

That so many women are obese is cause for alarm not only because of the increased health risks for them but also for those around them, Collazo-Clavell said.

"That's kind of the tip of the iceberg," she said. Women are often the primary caregivers in a family, and their eating and activity habits can influence their children and others in their family.

An example of that ripple effect: Collazo-Clavell is starting to see some of her previous patients' children and is working with them to help manage their obesity.

It's difficult to pinpoint what is causing women to struggle more with obesity than men, but doctors say there likely are many factors at play.

Women typically have two times in their lives when they are at risk of gaining significant amounts of weight: childbearing (during pregnancy and after giving birth) and menopause.

Collazo-Clavell hears from many new mothers that they find meal planning and preparation tough after giving birth. Also of concern, she notes that women as a group are going into pregnancy heavier than they were 20 years ago.

It makes it harder to manage a healthy pregnancy weight if they're already overweight, she said.

An epidemic

One of the country's leading health problems, obesity can lead to serious diseases, including diabetes and heart disease.

Body mass index (BMI) is calculated by dividing weight (in kilograms) by height squared (in centimeters). Anyone with a BMI of 25 or more is considered overweight, while those with a BMI of 30 or more are obese. (Find a calculator here.)

For example, a woman of average height in the U.S. (5 feet 4) would be classified as obese if she weighs at least 175 pounds. An average height American man (5 feet 9) who weighs 203 pounds or more would be considered obese.

Dr. Guilford Hartley is medical director of the Hennepin Bariatric Center and Obesity Program, where 100 surgeries for weight management are performed each year.

He sees many more female patients than men. Part of the reason, he said, is that women are more likely to seek medical treatment for a weight issue than men.

"In our culture, when a man's overweight, nobody pays too much attention," he said. "But we have such an emphasis on being thin for women that we're culturally forcing women to be more concerned about their weight than men. The social pressure if you're overweight and a woman is higher."

Personal Trainer

Staying safe on a treadmill

Treadmill machines seem simple to use, but they run with enough power to cause severe injuries to a careless or unlucky person.

Straddle to start up

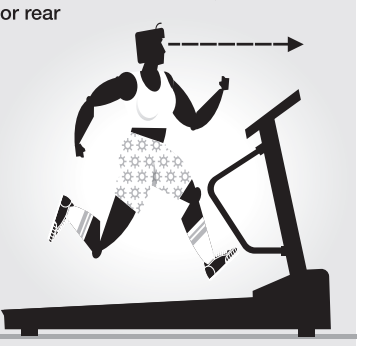
Stand over belt as you turn on machine; step on or off only if belt is moving slowly

Safe location

Lock room to keep children from playing on treadmill; watch that children, pets or inattentive adults do not step onto it when it is running

Look forward

Your feet will follow your eyes; try to run in the center of belt, not at front or rear



Minimize handrail use

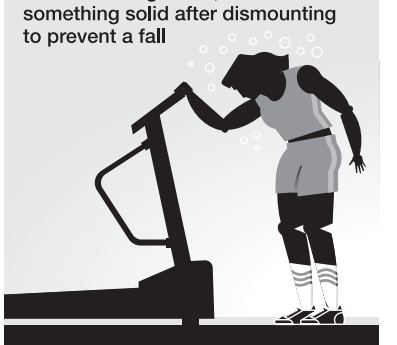
OK at first, but learn to swing your arms as you run; if you must hold rails to climb a hill or cruise, the belt speed is set too high

Understand and use its safety features

Such as automatic stop feature and unlock codes that must be used to start the treadmill

Expect to feel dizzy

Dazed feeling after stopping is normal for beginners; hold something solid after dismounting to prevent a fall



Source: Fitness Walking For Dummies

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas and Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

NYC Ballet must rehire 2 dancers fired over nude photos

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York City Ballet must reinstate two male dancers who were fired for sharing nude photos of women and sexually explicit texts, an arbitrator ruled Friday.

Ramasar

The arbitrator decided the company should not have fired Amar Ramasar and Zachary Catazaro, who were both named in a lawsuit by a woman who accused the ballet company of tolerating a "fraternity-like atmosphere" in which male dancers understood that "they could degrade, demean, mistreat and abuse, assault and batter women without consequence."

Ramasar, a star with the company who also appeared in last year's Broadway revival of "Carousel," said he was gratified to have won reinstatement, adding, "As I move forward, learning, and evolving, I am eager to once again dance amongst the colleagues I respect, doing the ballets I have held close to my heart for the past 18 years."

Catazaro said he was "grateful and relieved" at the ruling but would not return to City Ballet.

Ramasar and Catazaro were first suspended and then fired in September after they were named in a lawsuit by Alexandra Waterbury, a former student with the City Ballet's affiliated school, the School of American Ballet.

Waterbury sued after discovering, she said, that a third male City Ballet dancer whom she had been dating, Chase Finlay, had shared nude photos of her, taken without her knowledge, with other men in the company.

The lawsuit accused Finlay of sending nude photos of Waterbury to Ramasar. It said Catazaro exchanged unspecified images with Finlay.

While denying that it condoned mistreatment of women, the ballet company terminated the contracts of Ramasar and Catazaro. Finlay resigned before he could be fired.

An email seeking comment was sent Friday to Finlay.

The dancers' union, the American Guild of Musical Artists, appealed Ramasar's and Catazaro's firings to the arbitrator.

City Ballet said in a statement that it believes it was within its rights to fire the dancers but will abide by the ruling. The company noted that Ramasar must undergo counseling on his conduct as a condition of reinstatement.

A lawyer for Waterbury said the arbitrator's ruling does not affect "the pending lawsuit designed to hold the New York City Ballet and others accountable."

Polanski asks court to restore his film academy membership

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roman Polanski asked a judge Friday to restore his membership in the organization that bestows the Academy Awards nearly a year after he was expelled from it for sexual misconduct.

Polanski

Lawyers for the 85-year-old fugitive director petitioned Los Angeles Superior Court to compel the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to make him a member in good standing again.

In May, the academy made the rare move of expelling Polanski and Bill Cosby, months after ending the membership of disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Polanski appealed the decision, and in January the academy rejected his appeal.

Friday's five-page filing states that by not giving Polanski sufficient notice of his expulsion, and not giving he or his lawyer to argue his case in person during the appeal, the academy "failed to comply with its own rules, policies and regulations."

The academy responded with a brief statement saying, "The procedures taken to expel Mr. Polanski were fair and reasonable. The Academy stands behind its decision as appropriate."

The filing also alleges that the expulsion violated a California law that requires corporations to give a fair hearing before removing a member, calling it a "prejudicial abuse of discretion."

Polanski's attorney Harland Braun said at the time that Polanski was "blindsided" by his removal, and learned of it through media reports.

The filing says that the academy's decision is final and the director has no recourse for reconsideration outside of the courts.

Polanski, who won a best director Oscar for "The Pianist" in 2003, remains a fugitive after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a minor in 1977 and fleeing the United States the following year. He has been living in Europe since.

He had been an academy member for nearly 50 years at the time of his expulsion, and his films had been nominated for 28 Oscars.

But he had long been one of the organization's more divisive members. At the 2003 ceremony, Polanski's win—his first—received a standing ovation. He was not in attendance. He'd previously been nominated for writing his adaptation of "Rosemary's Baby," and directing "Chinatown" and "Tess."

Polanski's ouster from the group means he can no longer vote for nominees and winners, but he and his films can still win Oscars.

After expelling Weinstein, the academy implemented revised standards of conduct for its over 8,400 members. The standards said the organization is no place for "people who abuse their status, power or influence in a manner that violates standards of decency."

Flyers cover statue of singer Smith amid racism allegations

A television photographer records the partially covered statue of singer Kate Smith near the Wells Fargo Center, Friday, April 19, 2019, in Philadelphia. AP

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Flyers are covering a statue of singer Kate Smith outside their arena, following the New York Yankees in cutting ties and looking into allegations of racism against the 1930s star with a popular recording of "God Bless America."

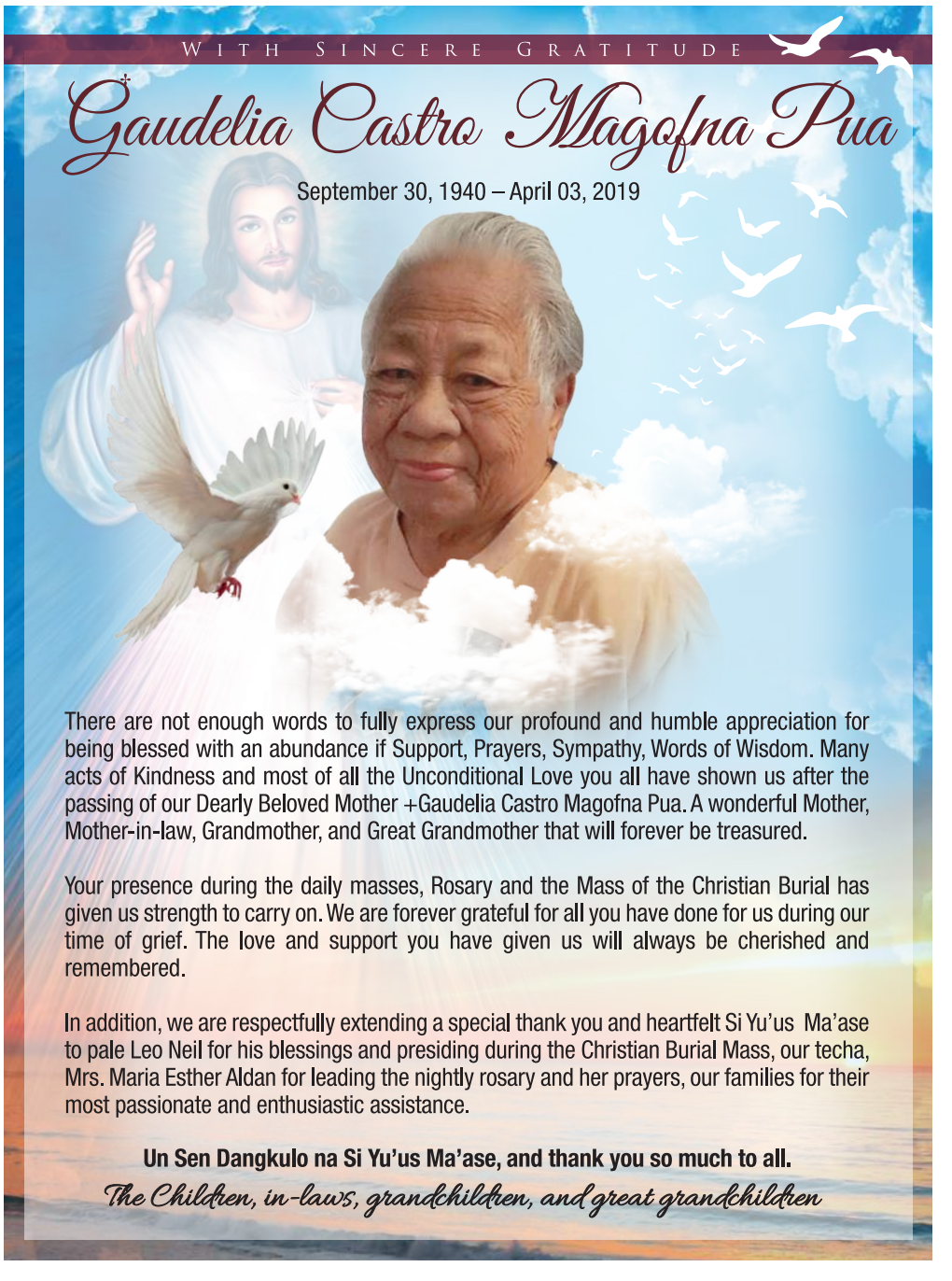
Flyers officials said Friday they also plan to remove Smith's "God Bless America" recording from their library. They say several other songs performed by Smith "contain offensive lyrics that do not reflect our values as an organization."

The New York Daily News reported the Yankees suspending their use of Smith's recording during the seventh-inning stretch amid conflicting claims about several of her songs, including a 1939 song "That's Why the Darkies Were Born." The tune originated in the 1931 Broadway revue "George White's Scandals," and was considered satire at the time. Smith's likeness also appears in a 1939 ad that heavily uses the mammy caricature, one of the most well-known racist depictions of black women.

Smith died in 1986.

Smith's connection with the Flyers started in 1969 when a team executive ordered her version of "God Bless America" to be played instead of "The Star Spangled Banner." That led to her performing the song several times before games in the 1970s.

The Yankees have used her recording of "God Bless America" and sometimes live singers during the seventh inning since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They have used her version twice this season and have mostly played an organ version.


WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE
+Gaudelia Castro Magofna Pua
September 30, 1940 – April 03, 2019
There are not enough words to fully express our profound and humble appreciation for being blessed with an abundance if Support, Prayers, Sympathy, Words of Wisdom. Many acts of Kindness and most of all the Unconditional Love you all have shown us after the passing of our Dearly Beloved Mother +Gaudelia Castro Magofna Pua. A wonderful Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother that will forever be treasured.
Your presence during the daily masses, Rosary and the Mass of the Christian Burial has given us strength to carry on. We are forever grateful for all you have done for us during our time of grief. The love and support you have given us will always be cherished and remembered.
In addition, we are respectfully extending a special thank you and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to pale Leo Neil for his blessings and presiding during the Christian Burial Mass, our techa, Mrs. Maria Esther Aldan for leading the nightly rosary and her prayers, our families for their most passionate and enthusiastic assistance.
Un Sen Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and thank you so much to all.
The Children, in-laws, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

In 'Red Joan', Judi Dench gets spy role far from 007's boss

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Judi Dench is back in the world of espionage—but her latest role is a far cry from James Bond's unflappable spy chief, M.

In "Red Joan," to be released Friday in Britain and the United States, Dench plays an elderly British woman whose quiet suburban life is upended when police come knocking to accuse her of passing nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

An indignant Joan insists she has done nothing wrong. But as she is questioned, flashbacks reveal a complex tale of love, loyalty and misplaced idealism.

Dench

Dench played M in seven Bond films, from "Goldeneye" to "Skyfall." She says she is fascinated by spies, who are often first-rate actors.

An enduring source of intrigue for Dench is the "Cambridge Spies," a group of high-ranking British intelligence officers that fed information to the Soviet Union for years. The double agents, who included one-time MI6 counter-espionage chief Kim Philby, fended off suspicion with upper-class charm.

"There's some footage of Kim Philby meeting the press at a flat and saying 'Of course I'm not (a spy), you've got hold of the wrong end of the stick,'" Dench told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "It's the most wonderful bit of acting you can possibly see." She recommends the clip to young actors for study.

Directed by stage and film veteran Trevor Nunn, "Red Joan" is based on the true story of "Granny Spy" Melita Norwood, a civil servant living in the London suburbs who passed nuclear secrets to Moscow for decades. When she was exposed in 1999 at the age of 87, she expressed no regrets, saying she would do it all again.

The fictional character of the movie's title is Joan Stanley. Played as a young woman by Sophie Cookson, she is a bright physics student in wartime Cambridge who becomes involved with the quest for an atomic bomb, and with a charismatic revolutionary (Tom Hughes).

Dench says Joan is convinced she is acting in the name of peace, by "evening up" the nuclear arms race.

"After Hiroshima she said, if everybody had the same armaments, it wouldn't happen. It would prevent the other side from using them," Dench said.

Then "she just got on with her suburban life, and it obviously hadn't occurred to her that it was an act of treason."

Dench feels some sympathy for Joan's argument. She can recall the early Cold War years, when the horrors of World War II were still fresh and the prospect of nuclear annihilation seemed all too real.

Dench was 5-years-old when war broke out in 1939 and remembers huddling at the bottom of the stairs as her home city of York in northern England was bombed.

As a young actress, she protested against nuclear weapons, though was never a big political activist like some contemporaries.

"I remember sitting in Trafalgar Square during Ban the Bomb, with Vanessa Redgrave," Dench said. "I think Vanessa got arrested and had to say to the police, 'You can't arrest me, I've got a matinee today.'"

Jason Momoa shaves signature beard to promote recycling

In this Dec. 12, 2018 file photo, Jason Momoa arrives at the premiere of "Aquaman" at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Aquaman" is clean-shaven.

Actor Jason Momoa on Wednesday released a video in which he shaved off his signature beard and mustache in order to promote recycling. He started by saying farewell to his "Game of Thrones" and DC characters Drogo and Arthur Curry.

Momoa said he thought he last shaved in 2012.

The 39-year-old says he wanted to do it to "bring awareness that plastics are killing our planet." He says aluminum is the one thing that can save it and he promoted his own line of sparkling water in aluminum cans.

Momoa says "there's a change coming and it's aluminum."

The Environmental Protection Agency's most current data from 2015 showed nearly 55 percent of aluminum beer and soft drink cans were recycled compared to 30% of plastic bottles.

Jimmy Page reflects on Led Zeppelin's legacy and its sound

NEW YORK (AP)—When Jimmy Page was a young student, he had already developed such an inseparable relationship with his guitar that school officials would often confiscate it.

"It would be given back at the end of the day. And this was quite repetitive," Page said.

That dedication worked out pretty well for Page, who took Led Zeppelin to the zenith as one of the most powerful outfits in rock history.

Now some of the instruments that he used to create that Zeppelin sound are on display at an exhibition called "Play It Loud: Instruments of Rock & Roll" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Seven of Page's guitars, a few costumes and some of his equipment have been loaned to the exhibit, alongside dozens of guitars, drums and memorabilia from such legends as Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bo Diddley and John Lennon.

While visiting the exhibition, Page sat down with The Associated Press to discuss the band's legacy, why its music has endured and prospects for another reunion concert.

AP: How frustrating are the Led Zeppelin reunion questions? You weren't completely happy with Live Aid or the 40th anniversary concert for Atlantic Records in 1988. What about the 2007 concert in London?

Page: I'm rather pleased that we did it, because we sort of looked still similar to what we looked now, and, yeah, we did a really good job. But I don't think there's going to be another one.

AP: Let's talk about your earliest recollection with the guitar.

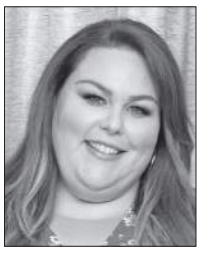
Page: I was taking my guitar to school so that I could play at recess because I became so involved with it, we became inseparable. I had to do my academic studies, that was the deal I had with my dad. And the rest of the time I could play guitar. So, I took that one step further: I would take that to school and play at recess.

AP: Your guitar work for Led Zeppelin was far ahead of the curve...

Page: I'd like to think that it was, because the first album, I sort of knew, as we were doing the tracks, exactly how I was going to layer everything and the textures of them.... There's a variety of moods on 'Led Zeppelin I.' So, again, it was me challenging and pushing as far as I possibly could, not even thinking of my limitations, just going beyond, beyond, beyond.

'This Is Us' star Chrissy Metz finds her film 'Breakthrough'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chrissy Metz says she believed in miracles well before getting the call to meet producer DeVon Franklin to discuss taking the lead in director Roxann Dawson's just-released faith-based drama "Breakthrough."


Metz

Metz was already familiar with the film's story of Joyce Smith, whose son, John, fell through ice on a lake in January 2015 and was drowning for 15 minutes before paramedics even started resuscitation efforts. By the time the boy was in the emergency room, he had gone so long without a pulse that doctors were ready to call time of death.

But Smith wouldn't accept it. She was given permission to pray at her son's feet as a last attempt at CPR was performed—and, much to everyone's surprise, John's pulse returned. And, eventually, he fully recovered from the accident.

Metz recalled her first meeting about the film adaptation with producer Franklin and executives from distributor 20th Century Fox. "I thought we were just generally meeting, and then I ended up sharing the story of my mother's medical emergency."

In 2017, Metz's mother, Denise, suffered a massive stroke, and even in front of her mother, doctors were openly pessimistic about a return to quality life.

Metz recalled her fury. "I told those doctors, 'You might think you know my mom, but you don't know my mom. And you don't know what she's capable of ... So, if you don't have anything nice or positive to say, you need to actually leave my mother's room,'" she said. "And then, of course, we come to find out that Joyce said those things to John's doctors."

Metz's mom is home, walking, making what Metz called "a strong recovery"—and provided inspiration for her daughter's portrayal of Joyce.

"To play, wholeheartedly, a woman who believes in miracles, you have to believe in miracles to some degree, I think," explained Metz, who didn't connect with the real-life Smith until two weeks into filming.

"I felt like I already knew her," Metz noted. "I watched her on TV. I read her book, 'The Impossible.'" But making the one-on-one contact did inform her performance. "Meeting her, you can't help but realize she has been through hell and back, and is better for it."

Three years ago, the 38-year-old Metz was perhaps the least-known of the seven original "This Is Us" leads. And while each in the cast has landed extracurricular gigs since the acclaimed and popular series' 2016 debut, Metz is the first to be top-billed in a major studio theatrical release.

"It's mind-blowing to know that when I first stepped foot on 'This Is Us,' I felt like the inadequate, doesn't have a resume, can I do this girl?" Metz said. "I learned so much from the cast collectively," she continued, crediting her "This Is Us" co-stars for teaching her what it took to head up the "Breakthrough" cast.

Metz said movie scripts "aren't pouring in," but they're coming, and the big issue is whether the movie is the right thing at the right time.

She said she connected with her "Breakthrough" character and the film's message of hope, as well as the producers' eagerness to let her pursue another passion: singing. Metz performs the new Diane Warren song, "I'm Standing With You ," over the film's end titles.

"For me, it's important for a movie to change me or change someone else," Metz said.

Rep: Adele, husband Simon Konecki have separated

NEW YORK (AP)—Adele and her husband Simon Konecki have separated.

The pop singer's representatives Benny Tarantini and Carl Fysh confirmed the news Friday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"Adele and her partner have separated," the emailed statement said. "They are committed to raising their son together lovingly. As always they ask for privacy. There will be no further comment."

Adele gave birth to their son, Angelo, in 2012.

The Grammy-winning British superstar has been private about her relationship, but confirmed she married Konecki when she won album of the year at the 2017 Grammys. In her acceptance speech, she said: "Grammys, I appreciate it. The Academy, I love you. My manager, my husband and my son—you're the only reason I do it."

Konecki co-founded Life Water, an eco-friendly brand of bottled water in the U.K. Funds from the company assists the charity that Konecki runs, Drop4Drop, which provides clean water to countries in need.

A representative for Konecki could not be reached.

AP
In this Feb. 12, 2017, file photo, Adele arrives at the 59th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Cardi B rejects plea deal in strip club melee case

Cardi B

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B has rejected a plea deal in a case stemming from a New York strip club melee last fall.

WNBC says the rapper did not speak to journalists before or after her three-minute court appearance on Friday. But fans got as close as they could to catch a glimpse of her.

She is due back in court next month on misdemeanor reckless endangerment and assault charges.

Police say Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, and her entourage were at the club when she argued with a bartender.

They say a fight broke out in which chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown, slightly injuring the woman and another employee.

Her lawyer has said that she didn't harm anybody.

One fan, Briana Minore, 19, came from another part of Queens to catch a glimpse of the star, who waved to her, according to the New York Daily News.

"They wouldn't let you close to her, but I was shaking," Minore told the newspaper after Cardi swept past in an all-white outfit. "I love her so much, I've been planning this day for so long."

Bieber, Ariana Grande join Lil Dicky for Earth Day video

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande and Leonardo DiCaprio have joined rapper-comedian Lil Dicky on a new song and video aimed at bringing awareness to climate change and Earth Day, which is Monday.

Dicky released the animated clip for the song "Earth" on Friday, where Bieber is a baboon and Grande is a zebra. The video, featuring 32 artists, also stars Ed Sheeran (koala), Miley Cyrus (elephant), Shawn Mendes (rhino), Katy Perry (pony) and Kevin Hart as Kanye West.

Dicky, best known for his 2018 hit "Freak Friday" with Chris Brown, says he "didn't really realize how insane our climate crisis is and how screwed humanity is about to be."

He adds, "If we don't get our act together now, and change a lot about our fundamental behavior, Earth will become unlivable alarmingly soon."

John Singleton of 'Boys N the Hood' hospitalized with stroke

NEW YORK (AP)—"Boyz N the Hood" director John Singleton suffered a stroke last week and remains hospitalized, according to his family. Additional details, including his condition, were not immediately available.

In a statement released Saturday, Singleton's family announced that the 51-year-old filmmaker was in ICU and "under great medical care."

"On Wednesday, April 17th our beloved son/father, John Singleton, suffered a stroke while at the hospital," the statement reads. "We ask that privacy be given to him and our family at this time and appreciate all of the prayers that have been pouring in from his fans, friends and colleagues."

Author Neil deGrasse Tyson and actor Omar Epps have been among those tweeting wishes Saturday for a quick recovery.

Singleton became the first black filmmaker to receive an Oscar nomination when he was cited for his debut feature, "Boyz N the Hood," set in his native Los Angeles and released in 1991. His other films include "Poetic Justice," which starred Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur, and "Rosewood." Singleton's recent projects include the TV series "Snowfall," a crime drama set in 1980s Los Angeles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Actress Anjelica Huston supports banning fur sales in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Anjelica Huston is supporting efforts to outlaw fur sales in the fashion mecca of New York. Huston says in an opinion piece in the Daily News that she used to think fur was a symbol of "glamour and affluence" but now she's ashamed of having supported the fur trade years ago. She is backing bills introduced in the New York City Council and in New York's state Legislature to ban the sale of fur. Huston says many consumers are unaware of fur's "horrifying" supply chain. She says coyotes whose pelts adorn hoods and collars may suffer for days in steel traps before they are bludgeoned to death. Coyote trappers say they are helping to control the population of an animal that's often considered a nuisance.

Michelle Williams, Phil Elverum split after wedding in July

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Williams and Phil Elverum have separated less than a year after marrying. A person close to the couple who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment on the matter confirmed the split Friday. It was first reported by People magazine. The 38-year-old Oscar-nominated actress and the 40-year-old musician were wed last July in upstate New York. This was the first marriage for Williams, who has a daughter with the late Heath Ledger. Elverum was previously married to the late musician and illustrator Genevieve Castree, which whom he has a daughter. Williams is currently starring in FX's "Fosse/Verdon." Elverum has recorded under the names the Microphones and Mount Eerie.

Indianapolis Colts owner says he bought Lennon piano

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An upright piano that John Lennon used to write Beatles' songs has been sold at auction. Just "A Day in the Life" of the owner of the Indianapolis Colts. Jim Irsay tweeted Saturday that he's "elated" to now own the instrument Lennon used to compose songs for The Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album. The Indianapolis Star reports the piano, made in the 1870s, was auctioned on the site GottaHaveRockandRoll.com . The site estimated it would sell for between $800,000 and $1.2 million. As of Saturday afternoon, the final price tag had not yet been announced. Irsay calls ownership of the piano a "responsibility I take seriously, with future generations in mind." The Star says Irsay previously bought guitars once owned by music legends Jerry Garcia, Prince and Bob Dylan.

Annual trip loses luster after friends grow apart

DEAR ABBY: A close friend and I usually take a girls' trip once a year -- a long weekend at the same place. We drive there because it's close to where we live. She has asked me again this year about going.

I don't feel like doing it for many reasons. She spends a lot of time on her phone, texting or playing on apps, when we should be socializing. I like to relax and have a couple of drinks when I'm on vacation; she doesn't drink. Our taste in restaurants and food is completely different, plus she's on a tight budget and can't afford to spend like I can. (I usually cover the cost of our stay in a condo.) She's also negative and enjoys feeling sorry for herself, while I prefer looking on the bright side of things.

I don't mind spending an evening with her, but that's it. She hates her job, complains about financial problems and taking care of her parents, and her marriage isn't the best—but she does have a big heart. I would rather save my vacation days from work and stay home with my husband and animals.

I take multiple vacations year round; she does not. I almost feel obligated to go. I'm afraid I'll hurt her feelings if I tell her I don't want to do it anymore. I can't use work, money or the place being occupied as an excuse. What should I do?

STAYCATION INSTEAD

DEAR STAYCATION: Frankly, if you can tolerate this woman's company for one evening only, your friendship may have gone from hot to temperate. Traditions don't necessarily last forever, and it may be time to make a change.

Tell her that this year you would love to spend an evening with her, but you prefer to stay quietly at home with your husband rather than take the long weekend trip. Be as diplomatic as possible and tell her you know she's carrying a lot on her shoulders, but the only person who can "fix" the things that stress her out or make her unhappy is her—by talking with someone who is better qualified than you are to listen and advise her.

DEAR ABBY: This is hard to write. My mother-in-law constantly asks me how much I weigh, expecting me to give her an honest answer. I have been saying that my medical information is private, but she continues to ask, even going so far as to ask other people if they know my weight. She wheedles me for confidential health data every single time I see her.

Is she trying to steal my medical ID? Telling her it's private won't keep her from asking again. It really makes me not want to visit her anymore. Any ideas?

PRIVATE INFO IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PRIVATE: Neither of us knows the intent behind your mother-in-law's persistence. She may think you are too thin or overweight and be trying to open an unwelcome conversation on the subject.

You asked me for ideas, and I do have several:

1. Turn the tables and ask HER, "Why do you keep asking me that? It's making me uncomfortable."

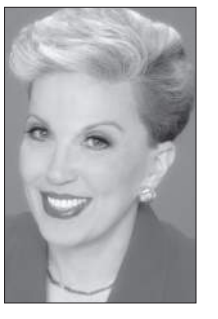
2. Say, "My weight is my business, not yours."

3. Tell her the next time she mentions your weight will be the last time she sees you.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

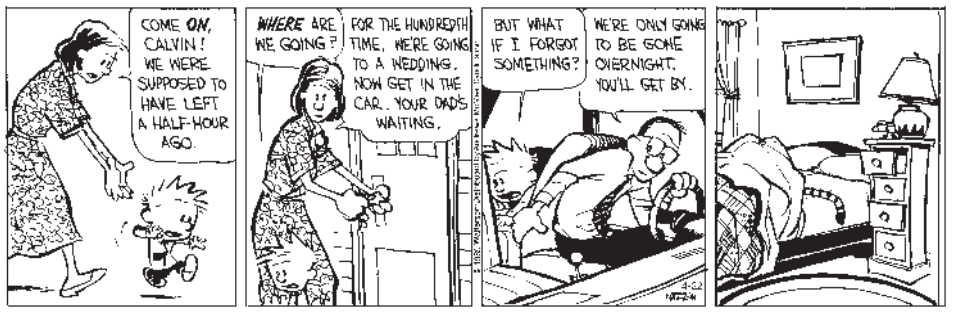


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

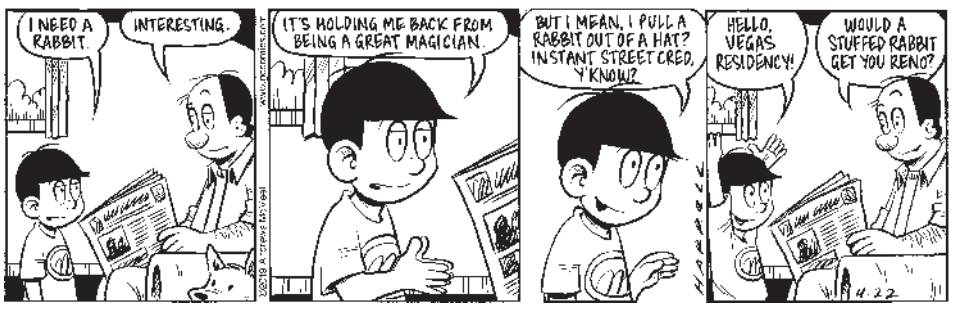

COME ON, CALVIN! WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE LEFT A HALF-HOUR AGO.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME, WE'RE GOING TO A WEDDING. NOW GET IN THE CAR. YOUR DAD'S WAITING.
BUT WHAT IF I FORGOT SOMETHING?
WE'RE ONLY GOING TO BE GONE OVERNIGHT. YOU'LL GET BY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED A RABBIT.
INTERESTING.
IT'S HOLDING ME BACK FROM BEING A GREAT MAGICIAN.
BUT I MEAN, I PULL A RABBIT OUT OF A HAT? INSTANT STREET CRED, Y'KNOW?
HELLO, VEGAS RESIDENCY!
WOULD A STUFFED RABBIT GET YOU RENO?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OH, HI, DORIS... I DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL YOU.
I MEANT TO CALL A CHILDREN'S CHARITY TO MAKE A HUGE DONATION. BUT SINCE YOU'RE ON, I WAS THINKING...
THE OL' CHARITY-ASK-OUT SWITCHEROO.
CLICK!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Creche trio
5 Sheep's cry
8 Espy
12 Optimist's credo
13 Steal from
14 Texas city
15 Lost traction
16 "Madam Secretary" memoirist Madeleine
18 Dutch exports
20 Spanning
21 Demolish, in Dover
23 Jungfrau, for one
24 Tirana resident
28 Blathers
31 Meadow
32 Seafood selection
34 Gangster's gun
35 Lincoln in-law
37 Tuna type
39 Sneaky chuckle
41 Son of Adam and Eve
42 You can count on it
45 Seduce
49 Prince of Monaco who is Grace Kelly's son
51 Shark variety
52 Check
53 Rm. coolers
54 Baby carriage
55 Golf stroke
56 Belly
57 Eyelid woe

DOWN

1 Fine spray
2 Rights advocacy org.
3 Author Sheehy
4 Prime Minister Gandhi
5 Cabbage, broccoli and the like
6 MSN rival
7 "Waterloo" group
8 Making spiral patterns
9 Samoan port
10 Phil of folk music
11 Youngsters
17 — Victor
19 Skillets
22 British nobles
24 Flight stat
25 Zodiac cat
26 Vice
27 Mother Teresa, for one
29 Standard
30 Fr. holy woman
33 Social appointment
36 Not half bad
38 Victors
40 "Ben- —"
42 Seniors' org.
43 — cheese dressing
44 Male deer
46 Scurry
47 Fine
48 Iditarod terminus
50 Post-op area

Solution time: 26 mins.

I	R	M		O	C	H	O		Z	I	T	I
N	E	A		D	E	A	R		I	C	A	N
C	R	I	T	E	R	I	A		P	I	I	D	S
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			S	S	S		G	I	O	R	I	A
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E	V	I	L		E	U	P	H	O	H	I	A
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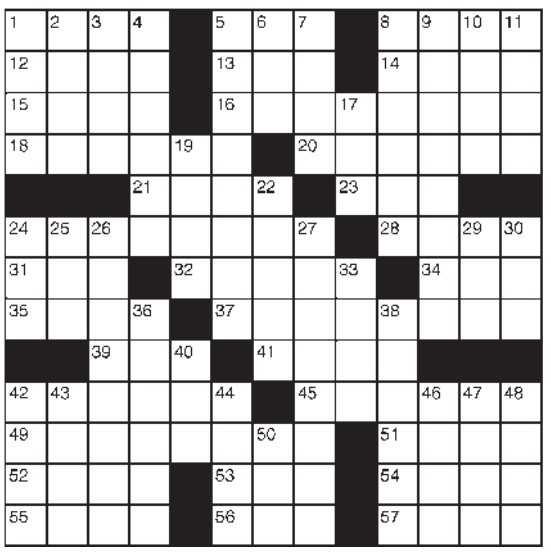
F	L	A	X		T	E	A	M		S	I	T

Last Friday's Answer 04-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Heard, 33; Sherri Shepherd, 52; Jeffrey Dean Morgan, 53; Jack Nicholson, 82.

Happy Birthday: Excitement, adventure and change will drive you this year. The greater the challenge, the bigger the opportunity. Aim high, keep your eye on what's important to you and make the moves that will bring you joy. A boost to your financial situation looks promising but will require proper handling. Romance will give you a new lease on life. Your numbers are 2, 14, 20, 24, 31, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look at what you have, what you can do without and where best to invest. Try something new, or use your skills differently to encourage personal growth. Romance is highlighted, and a physical improvement will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consider how best to utilize your talents. Take care of red-tape issues before you start something new. Being aware of pitfalls that may occur will help prevent falling behind schedule. Trust in what's been proven to work in the past. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put more energy into doing your best and helping those who are truly in need. The satisfaction you get from sharing your time and making someone happy will result in an unexpected opportunity as well as praise from someone you love. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do whatever it takes to stay on top of your responsibilities, even if someone is interfering or playing mind games with you. Doing your best will result in an unexpected change and the support of someone you least expect. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Information will make the difference between success and failure. Listen, and you will gain insight into future trends. Business trips, meetings and networking functions will encourage you to get involved in something that will raise your profile. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change in the way things are done will set you on a new path. Don't get flustered or upset with what transpires. Use your skills to assimilate to what's happening; you will outmaneuver any competition you encounter. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A break will do you good. A business trip that also includes some downtime will bring you closer to the people who can influence your future. A chance to do something nice for someone you love will improve your relationship. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Embrace change and make it work for you. Don't let anyone tempt you into something you know isn't going to help you reach your goal. Joint ventures will be riddled with poor judgment and disillusionment. Act alone, and do things your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Truth and loyalty matter. Don't make excuses for someone else's behavior. Clear vision and being upfront regarding the way you feel will help you avoid being taken for granted. Overreacting, indulgent behavior and deception should be overruled. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* If you choose to help someone, set boundaries and make it clear that you expect him or her to contribute as well. A joint effort will be far more effective as well as keep your friendship intact. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make changes at home or to the way you live, handle your finances or take care of your health. Putting together a daily routine and sticking to it will ease stress and lead to success. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Tread carefully when dealing with friends, relatives and colleagues. If someone asks for too much, set the record straight and offer only what you feel is fair. Too much of anything will leave you at a loss or feeling used. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are productive, patient and open-minded. You are unpredictable and entertaining.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3		2	7	4		8	
				5				
		8	1		3	4		
8		7				6		4
3	2			9			7	1
9		4				3		2
		3	8		9	2		
				1				
	9		3	2	5		6	

Difficulty Level ★ 4/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	3	8	6	4	5	2	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	8	3	1
5	8	7	3	2	1	6	9	4
8	1	9	7	4	5	3	6	2
2	7	6	1	3	9	4	8	5
3	4	5	6	8	2	1	7	9
9	3	2	4	5	6	7	1	8
7	5	8	2	1	3	9	4	6
4	6	1	9	7	8	2	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KARL LAGERFELD (1933-2019) Solution: 8 letters

S	S	L	E	D	O	M	A	H	K	C	E	B	Y	D
A	W	A	R	D	S	T	Y	L	E	I	C	O	N	E
T	E	O	O	C	O	C	T	O	S	S	O	R	A	S
S	R	E	H	P	A	R	G	O	T	O	H	P	M	I
I	U	S	S	S	P	O	L	H	A	M	B	U	R	G
R	T	E	E	O	L	E	P	A	T	O	U	U	E	N
U	U	U	V	S	B	N	Y	R	R	T	O	A	G	E
T	O	Q	O	A	S	T	I	I	E	T	D	L	C	R
A	C	C	L	C	S	A	F	E	N	D	I	S	A	U
C	E	A	G	I	H	A	L	I	D	V	D	K	R	N
I	T	J	T	E	S	A	W	G	S	O	A	E	O	W
R	U	R	T	H	A	N	N	A	N	G	H	T	L	A
A	A	I	I	N	O	T	L	E	Z	U	R	C	I	Y
C	H	O	U	P	E	T	T	E	L	E	S	H	N	S
W	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	T	L	E	B

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Last Friday's Answer: Believers

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Nadal stunned in Monte Carlo semifinals

MONACO (AP) — Fabio Fognini ended Rafael Nadal's winning streak at the Monte Carlo Masters, stunning the defending champion 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to reach the final for the first time and hand Nadal his first defeat here since a loss to Novak Djokovic in the 2015 semifinals.

Fognini had beaten Nadal twice before on clay, and also once at the U.S. Open in five sets, but this was arguably the most impressive.

"I have the game to play against him," the 13th-seeded Fognini said. "I had nothing to lose."

He wasn't concerned if Nadal was out of form.

"That's not the question that I have to answer," Fognini said. "I just say that I played an incredible match."

Still, the second-ranked Nadal called it "one of my worst matches in 14 years" and the 32-year-old Spaniard said it was "difficult to find an explanation" for capitulating on his favored clay-court surface.

Yet the defeat could have been even more humiliating for Nadal, who had not lost a set here by 6-0 since the 2005 final—which he went on to win for the first of his record 11 titles.

Fognini came so close to drubbing him in the second set. He served for the match at 5-0 and 40-0, but Nadal saved three match points, broke back and held.

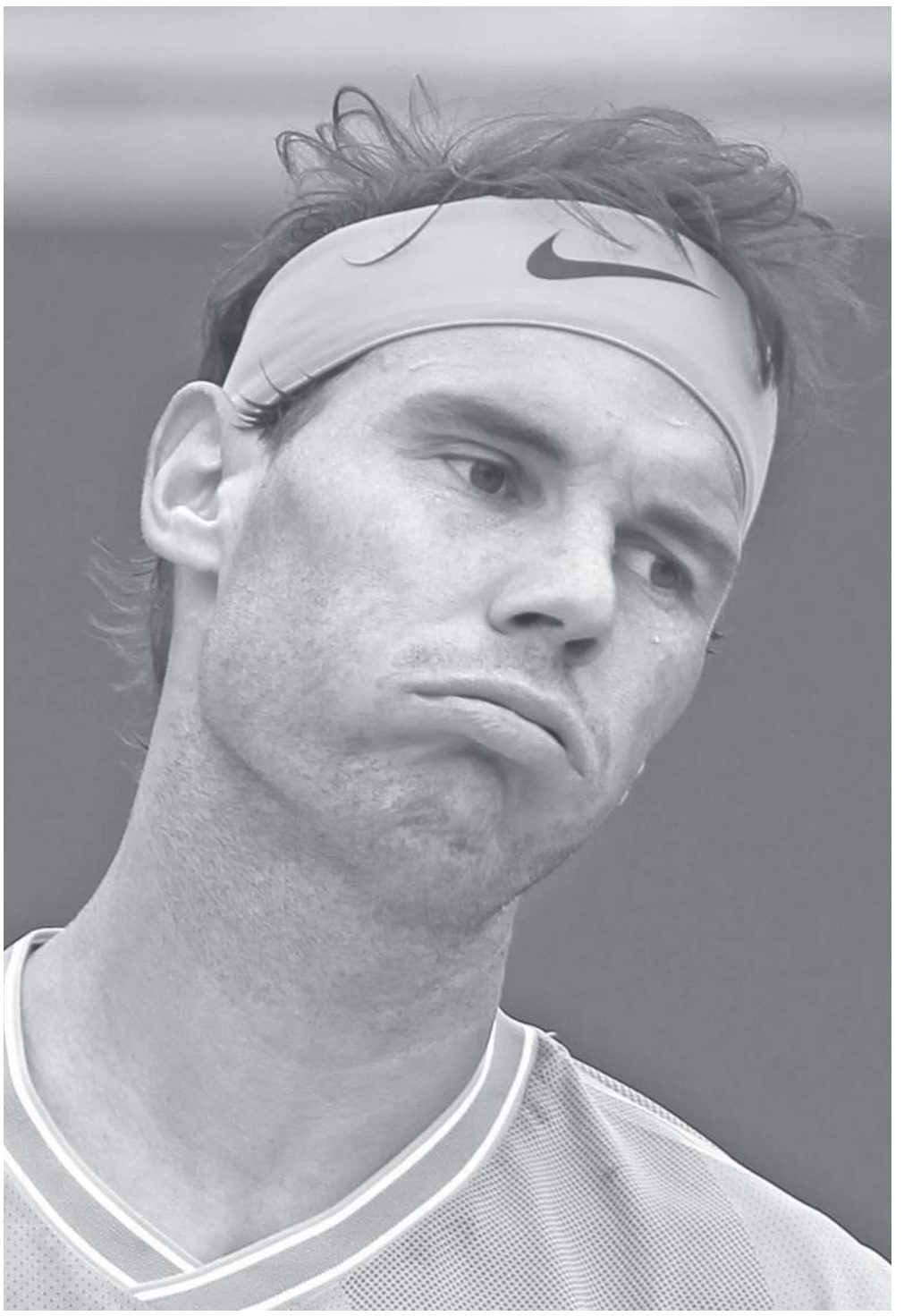
"I was lucky to win the two games," said Nadal, who had not even lost a set here since conceding one in the second round against Britain's Kyle Edmund in 2017.

Serving again for the match at 5-2, Fognini hit a superb forehand down the line on his fourth match point. He next plays unseeded Serb Dusan Lajovic in their first-ever meeting, and one few would have predicted.

Least of all Fognini.

He trailed by a set and 4-1 down during his first-round match against Andrey Rublev.

"If you told me at the beginning of the week 'See you on Sunday (for the final),' I would laugh in your face," Fognini said.



AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts during their semifinal match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament against Italy's Fabio Fognini in Monaco, Saturday, April, 20, 2019.

The 48th-ranked Lajovic staged an impressive comeback of his own, meanwhile, rallying from 5-1 down to beat 10th-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-1.

That match was a suitable appetizer to the higher drama which followed.

Nadal had dropped his first three service games Friday in his quarterfinal against Guido Pella, and the early signs were not good this time.

His first game against Fognini lasted 12 minutes, with Nadal saving four break points before conceding the first of six breaks of serve in the match.

In his quarterfinal and semifinal combined, Nadal conceded 23 break-point chances.

But whether Fognini, who previously lost 11 times to Nadal overall, could capitalize seemed uncertain.

The 31-year-old Italian can lose his temper on court, and it got the better of him during the fourth game.

With heavy winds swirling around the court, Fognini's towel flew off his seat and landed on the clay during the first point. He complained to the umpire, perhaps to get the point replayed, and then angrily put the offending towel into his drinks box.

Nadal broke him to love to lead 3-1, and Fognini got a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"The chair umpire made a bad call," Fognini said. "He gave me a warning for nothing."

Fognini irate, Nadal serving for a 4-1 lead—another comfortable Nadal route to the final looked on.

But Fognini broke back to 3-2 and then broke Nadal to love in the ninth game with some momentous shot-making.

Momentum was on Fognini's side, not to mention some luck.

Serving for the set at 5-4 and 30-30, his shot hit the net and turned into a perfect drop shot.

Fognini raised both arms in apology, and then superbly put away a volley at full stretch on the next point to clinch the set.

He hit a delightful two-handed, backhand cross-court winner to break at the start of the second set.

Nadal is usually the undisputed crowd favorite on the French Riviera, but shouts of "Fabio, Fabio, Fabio" rang out at the Monte Carlo Country Club.

Many Italian fans likely made the short trip along the coast from nearby San Remo —where Fognini grew up.

"It's a big opportunity to them to come here and watch me play," Fognini said. "I don't know how many are coming tomorrow."

Still, he should have most of the support against Lajovic, who earlier won 10 straight games to lead 4-0 in the second set before Medvedev finally again held serve.

It could have been an all-Serb semifinal but Medvedev knocked out the top-ranked Djokovic in Friday's quarterfinals.

There have only been three winners here since 2005: Nadal, Djokovic (2013 and '15) and Stan Wawrinka ('14).

A new name will be on the trophy on Sunday.

Former running back Cobb dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Former NFL and Tennessee Volunteers running back Reggie Cobb died Saturday at the age of 50, the San Francisco 49ers announced.

A cause of death has not yet been announced.

Cobb served as a scout in the 49ers organization for the past 10 years after an NFL career spent with four teams.

"We are devastated by the sudden loss of a tremendous teammate and loyal friend, Reggie Cobb," 49ers general manager John Lynch said in a statement. "Reggie was an enthusiastic and passionate person who had a special ability to brighten up a room with his personality and infectious smile. For 10 years, the 49ers were better because of Reggie and these unique qualities that he possessed. He was a top-notch scout and an exemplary man whose years of service to this organization and the National Football League will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in this time of mourning."

Cobb played at Tennessee from 1987-89. He was drafted in the second round of the 1990 NFL draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the 30th overall pick. He played four seasons (1990-93) with Tampa Bay before playing one season each with the Green Bay Packers (1994), Jacksonville Jaguars (1995) and New York Jets (1996).

In seven NFL seasons, Cobb rushed for 3,743 yards and 25 touchdowns. His best season was in 1992 with the Buccaneers, when he rushed for 1,171 yards and scored 9 touchdowns.

No. 1 Johnson moves atop the RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Dustin Johnson, known for length off the tee, showed off his precise ball-positioning and hot putter Saturday to take the RBC Heritage lead.

Johnson shot a 3-under 68 for a one-shot lead over Shane Lowry, Ian Poulter and Rory Sabbatini.

The top-ranked Johnson, a South Carolina native who had not played his home state's only PGA Tour stop for nine years before returning in 2018, seems to have found a home on Harbour Town Golf Links' narrow fairways and smallish greens. He had his sixth round in the 60s over the last two years to reach 10 under.

"I'm really enjoying playing in it," Johnson said. "I really enjoyed playing in it last year after being away for so long. It's something I look forward to now. We have a really big fan base here and growing up in South Carolina definitely helps."

Lowry led the first 48 holes before making three bogeys on his final six holes in a 71. Poulter shot a 67, and Sabbatini had a 68.

Patrick Cantlay kept up his stellar weekend play and was two shots behind. Cantlay shot 64-68 last week at the Masters and had a 66 to lead a group of six at 8 under.

Johnson, who's won 20 PGA Tour titles, showed off other parts of his game that sometimes get overlooked by his massive drives. He saved par out of the pine straw after a bad drive to the right and into the trees on the 12th hole, then made birdie on the par-5 15th after putting his tee shot in the woods. He hit just five of 14 fairways, yet had only 25 putts.

"The course played tough. It was very challenging," he said. "It was tough getting balls close to the hole."

So Johnson just made a bunch of long putts. He had a 20-footer for birdie on the sixth hole and a 19-footer for birdie on the 13th. The highlight came at No. 14 when Johnson dropped a 47-foot bomb that caught the lip of the cup and rolled almost all the way around before dropping.

Was there some secret to Johnson's play?

"No," he said, "they just went in."

If he can keep it up Sunday, Johnson will become just the second South Carolina born player to win the RBC Heritage, joining friend and one-time Dutch Fork High golf teammate Wesley Bryan, who became the first to do it two years ago.

Johnson won the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship in February and tied for second last week in the Masters.

Lowry was the steadiest of anyone for the first 2 1/2 rounds and held a three-stroke lead over Johnson entering the back nine before faltering. The Irishman came up short on a sand shot on the 13th hole and took bogey. He put his tee shot into the water on the par-3 14th for a second straight bogey. Two holes later, Lowry added his third bogey after going the first 48 holes with just one.

"Even making those bogeys, it was the best I've been in a while (to stay in position for a victory)," he said.

Bucks, Rockets near series sweep

DETROIT (AP) — The Milwaukee Bucks know they are often considered a one-man team.

Saturday night, they took some major steps toward changing that perception.

On a night where Giannis Antetokounmpo was limited by foul trouble, the Bucks had seven players score in double figures and beat the Detroit Pistons 119-103 to take a 3-0 lead in the first-round series.

"That's something we've been working on all year," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We play together and take what the opponent gives us. It isn't all about Giannis, as great and amazing as he is. We have a lot of guys who can make plays and Giannis knows when to step back and let them carry the load."

The Bucks can finish off the Eastern Conference series Monday night in Detroit after winning the first three games by an average of 24 points.

The Bucks overcame 27 points, seven rebounds and six assists from Blake Griffin in his return from a right knee injury. He missed the first two games of the series after sitting out four of the final six in the regular season.

"That young man is giving us everything his body will give, and we need every bit of it," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "He has a presence that no one else on our team can provide."

Griffin had an immediate defensive impact, forcing two turnovers on Milwaukee's first three possessions, but struggled to keep up in transition.

"I don't know what percentage I'm at. I don't really worry about things like that," he said. "If I can play, I'm going to play

Antetokounmpo had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Khris Middleton led the Bucks with 20, Eric Bledsoe and Brook Lopez each had 19, and Lopez added seven rebounds and five blocks. Ersan Ilysaova (15), Nikola Mirotic (12) and George Hill (11) all reached double figures as part of the second unit.

"They came out strong in the first quarter and then Ersan came in and hit three straight threes to give us a lead," Middleton said. "That let us relax and play our own game."

Andre Drummond had 12 points and 12 rebounds, struggling with his own foul trouble. He missed eight of his first nine field-goal attempts.

"I think Andre missed some bunnies and it bothered him," Casey said. "He took that to the other end of the floor and missed some assignments on defense. He's still learning how everything is magnified in the pressure of the playoffs."

Drummond picked up his fourth foul early in the third quarter, but Antetokounmpo left a minute later with his fourth.

Middleton, playing against the team that drafted him in 2012, hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give Milwaukee an 85-66 lead with 4:47 left in the third quarter. Drummond returned late in the quarter, but picked up his fifth foul after just 41 seconds.

"I thought they guys were amazing, especially after I got my fourth foul," Antetokounmpo said. "Khris did a great job of guiding the team and making the right plays. It's good to see us winning a playoff game on the road when I'm not having my best game."

In Salt Lake City, James Harden never worried. In fact, he didn't know he had missed his first 15 shots.

Through it all, he never changed the attacking style that made him the NBA's leading scorer.

Harden overcame a poor shooting performance and scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Houston Rockets to a 104-101 win Saturday over the Utah Jazz for a commanding 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"Keep shooting. Keep being aggressive," Harden said of his only thoughts. "My job is to go out there and produce. Be aggressive and in attack mode. Nothing changes."

Not much has worked against Harden for the Jazz, and even when they thought they had him trapped, they weren't able to control The Beard for a full game.

"You're going to give something up. The best thing you can do with him is just try to make it hard on him. Even when you do that, there's times where he's going to make plays," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

The Jazz didn't take it easy on Harden, and took every opportunity to knock him down, even when it sent him to the line. For one of the rare times this season, Harden passed up some shots. But he did take them—and make them—when they counted most.

Though the victory was hardly a thing of beauty, Houston coach Mike D'Antoni was grateful for the way it went down.

"Sooner or later we have to win games on defense. We did this time," D'Antoni said of his team which is known for Harden's lethal 3-point attack but has drastically improved on the defensive end since mid-season.

Nuggets 117, Spurs 103

In San Antonio, Denver coach Mike Malone wanted more passion, fire and emotion. The young Nuggets responded.

Nikola Jokic had 29 points and 12 rebounds, Jamal Murray added 24 points and Denver beat the San Antonio Spurs, rebounding from a flat performance tie the first-round series at two games apiece.

"We can talk to we're blue in the face about, 'Hey, we're going to hit them first,' and all that," Malone said. "Go out there and do it."

The Nuggets did so, winning in San Antonio for the first time since 2012. Denver had lost three straight postseason games in San Antonio dating to their last playoff matchup in 2007 and had also lost 13 straight regular-season games on the road to the Spurs.

"It's an unbelievable win," said Paul Millsap, one of the few Nuggets with previous postseason experience. "I can't put into words the magnitude of this win."

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Denver.

76ers 112, Nets 108

In New York, Joel Embiid scored and rebounded. He blocked shots and even threw the most important pass of the game.

The only thing he didn't do is lose his cool after his hard foul triggered a scuffle.

After having to sit out the last game, there was no way Embiid was going to risk an ejection and miss his chance to help the Philadelphia 76ers seize control of the series.

Embiid had 31 points and 16 rebounds, and passed to Mike Scott for the go-ahead 3-pointer with 18 seconds left as the 76ers beat the Brooklyn to take a 3-1 series lead.

Embiid also had a flagrant foul that led to a scuffle and two ejections during an eventful return to the lineup after missing Game 3 with a sore left knee.

"I know these guys are going to go at me because they want me to retaliate, so I've got to be mature when I'm on the court and just stay cool and not react," Embiid said.

"Today I could have reacted but I felt like my team needed me more than they needed Jared Dudley, so I've just got to stay cool and mature and do my job."

Tobias Harris had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the 76ers. They can advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the second straight season with a victory at home Tuesday night.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) controls the ball as Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson (1) and forward Blake Griffin close in during the first half of Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday, April 20, 2019, in Detroit.

Lakers to interview ex-Cavs coach Lue

LOS ANGELES—Former Cleveland Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue will interview with the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday for their head coaching vacancy, ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski reported.

The Lakers fired coach Luke Walton last week after three seasons and a 98-148 record.

Lue, who previously served as an assistant coach for the Boston Celtics, L.A. Clippers and Cavaliers, became head coach in Cleveland during the 2015-16 season after David Blatt was fired.

The Cavaliers won their first NBA title that season and reached the NBA Finals the next two years, losing to Golden State.

With LeBron James departed for the Lakers, the Cavaliers started the 2018-19 season at 0-6 and Lue was fired. Lue, who turns 42 next month, had a 128-83 record with Cleveland.

The Lakers already have interviewed Philadelphia assistant coach Monty Williams and are expected to have a second meeting with him, Wojnarowski reported.

Miami Heat assistant Juwan Howard, a former teammate of James in Miami, also is expected to get an interview.

The Lakers have missed the playoffs the past six seasons.

Meanwhile, the NBA has rescinded technical fouls called on Golden State's Kevin Durant and JaMychal Green of the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 3 of their first-round playoff series.

The players were called for double technicals early in the third quarter Thursday night at Staples Center as they jawed at each other. The Warriors won 132-105 and lead the series 2-1.

Both players protested the call, and the league rescinded it Friday.

Durant had been ejected from Game 1 with a double technical and he had accumulated three of the seven fouls allotted before the NBA would issue a one-game suspension until the latest tech was withdrawn.

Durant said after the game Thursday that he hoped the foul would be rescinded because he doesn't want to jeopardize the two-time defending champions going forward.

Phillies snap Rockies' five-game win streak

AP
Colorado Rockies David Dahl (26) dives safely back to third as Philadelphia Phillies third baseman Maikel Franco (7) tries to make the tag during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Denver, Saturday, April 20, 2019.

DENVER (AP) — Phil Gosselin grew up winning imaginary games for the Philadelphia Phillies. When his chance came as a major leaguer, the hometown kid came through.

Gosselin hit a three-run double that put Philadelphia ahead for good, and the Phillies got homers from Bryce Harper and Andrew McCutchen in beating the Colorado Rockies 8-5 on Saturday night.

The big hit by Gosselin came a night after he scored the go-ahead run in the 12th inning only to watch the Rockies win in the bottom half.

"You get to write your feel-good story about Goss," Philadelphia manager Gabe Kapler said. "I can only imagine what it's like to grow up in the Philadelphia area and then to come through like he did. He must be on top of the world right now."

Harper hit a three-run shot in the seventh inning and McCutchen connected in the ninth to back scuffling Phillies ace Aaron Nola (2-0). Hector Neris got five outs for his third save.

Charlie Blackmon homered for the second straight game and finished with four hits. Raimel Tapia hit an inside-the-park home run for Colorado, which had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Yankees 9, Royals 2

In New York, All-Star slugger Aaron Judge hurt his left oblique while taking a swing and was expected to head to the injured list as the already banged-up Yankees beat the Kansas City Royals.

Judge homered early, but hurt himself in the sixth inning while hitting a single. He was taken to a hospital for an MRI and further tests.

Judge winced after taking a swing in the sixth and gingerly made his way to first base. He left the game after being checked by a trainer.

The Yankees, who began the game with 12 players on the injured list, hit four home runs. Judge connected in the first, Clint Frazier had a solo drive in the second and Mike Tauchman and DJ LeMahieu homered on consecutive pitches in the fourth.

Indians 8, Braves 4

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber bounced back from one of his worst outings in recent years by working seven innings and Carlos Santana celebrated his U.S. citizenship with three hits, as the Indians topped Atlanta in the opener of a doubleheader and stretched its winning streak to four games.

Kluber (2-2) shook off a rough first inning and allowed four runs and five hits. He didn't get out of the third inning in his previous start.

Max Moroff homered and had two RBIs for Cleveland. Greg Allen hit a run-scoring double off starter Julio Teheran (2-2) and the Indians scored six runs in the fifth — all with two outs.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Zack Greinke pitched three-hit ball over six innings and was backed by three home runs as Arizona won for the fifth time in six games.

Greinke (3-1) won for the third time in four starts.

Taylor Clarke worked the final three innings for a save in his major league debut, allowing one hit and preserving Arizona's first shutout since last Sept. 19.

Eduardo Escobar and David Peralta hit back-to-back solo homers against Yu Darvish (1-3) in the first. John Ryan Murphy capped a three-run sixth with a two-run homer.

Cardinals 10, Mets 2

In St. Louis, Miles Mikolas tossed eight stellar innings and drove in two runs, leading St. Louis over New York.

Jose Martinez had three hits and three RBIs and Paul Goldschmidt hit his eighth home run for St. Louis.

Mikolas (2-1) became the first St. Louis pitcher to record an out in the seventh inning this season. He allowed two runs and four hits.

Chris Flexen (0-1) surrendered six runs and on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Goldschmidt hit a 464 foot solo home run off Paul Sewald in the eighth inning.

Twins 6, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Eddie Rosario homered twice for a second straight game, Byron Buxton hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the sixth inning and Minnesota beat Baltimore in the opener of a doubleheader.

Rosario also doubled and made a leaping catch at the wall to take away an extra-base hit from Chris Davis.

Willians Astudillo went deep for the Twins, who have won seven straight over Baltimore.

Blue Jays 10, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Rowdy Tellez and Brandon Drury hit back-to-back homers in a five-run fourth inning and Justin Smoak also homered as Toronto won for the fifth time in six games on its road trip.

Toronto pitcher Matt Shoemaker injured his left knee in a rundown chase in the third inning.

Toronto's training staff was summoned again after just seven pitches by Shoemaker's replacement, Sam Gaviglio. Gaviglio (2-0) was checked out and remained in the game, throwing four scoreless innings to win.

Pirates 3, Giants 1, 5 innings

In Pittsburgh, Cole Tucker made a splash in his major league debut, hitting a two-run homer as the Pirates beat the San Francisco Giants in a game shortened to five innings because of rain.

Pittsburgh's first-round pick in the 2014 draft, Tucker sent a pitch from Derek Holland (1-3) a projected 431 feet into the bushes beyond the center field wall with two outs in the fifth inning to put the Pirates in front. His teammates summoned the 22-year-old shortstop out of the dugout for a curtain call, and Tucker obliged by walking onto the field and tapping his chest as fans roared.

Red Sox 6, Rays 5

In Florida, the World Series champion Boston Red Sox won a series for the first time this season when Andrew Benintendi hit a grand slam and a tiebreaking ninth-inning sacrifice fly and catcher Christian Vázquez picked off Tommy Pham for the final out in a win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Boston had lost four of its first six series and split the other two during a 6-13 start, its worst since 1996. The Red Sox beat the AL East-leading Rays 6-4 in Friday's series opener.

Before the game, the Red Sox put right-hander Nathan Eovaldi on the disabled list because of loose bodies in his pitching elbow and said it has not been determined whether he will need surgery.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 0

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich hit two home runs, pushing his major league-leading total to 13, and Chase Anderson pitched five strong innings in a spot start in Milwaukee's win over Los Angeles.

Ryan Braun added a three-run homer for the Brewers, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Brewers, who ended the Dodgers' six-game winning streak, got on the board in the third when Yelich hit a solo homer with two out off Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-1). With that homer, Yelich broke the franchise record for home runs in March and April, set by Eric Thames in 2017.

Marlins 9, Nationals 3

In Miami, Curtis Granderson homered and Miami busted out at the plate after changing hitting coaches, roughing up ace Max Scherzer in beating Washington to win a series for the first time this season.

Brian Anderson doubled twice and the Marlins finished with 11 hits in their first game under new batting coach Jeff Livesey.

Nationals slugger Anthony Rendon had his 17-game hitting streak halted when he left after being hit by a pitch on the left elbow in the third inning.

Miguel Rojas and Starlin Castro each had two hits for the Marlins.

Yanks star Judge hurt, Pujols climbs RBI chart

The New York Yankees are expected to put All-Star slugger Aaron Judge on the injured list, a day after he hurt his left oblique taking a swing against Kansas City.

The Yankees already had a dozen players out, including Giancarlo Stanton, Luis Severino, Gary Sanchez, Miguel Andujar and Aaron Hicks, before Judge was set to join them on the IL.

Judge has five home runs and is batting .288 with 11 RBIs. The right fielder has played in every game this season.

Meanwhile, after passing Babe Ruth for fifth place on baseball's career RBI chart, Albert Pujols can eclipse two more all-time greats: Lou Gehrig and Barry Bonds.

The Angels slugger hit a run-scoring double and his 636th homer Saturday night against Seattle to give him 1,993 RBIs, surpassing Ruth's total of 1,992 after RBIs became an official statistic in 1920. Ruth's career began in 1914, but baseball's official records don't count his RBIs with the Boston Red Sox before 1920.

Next up on the list for Pujols are Gehrig (1,994) and Bonds (1,996). Hank Aaron (2,297) holds the major league record and Alex Rodriguez (2,086) is second.

In other news, Cubs ace Jon Lester could be close to rejoining the rotation after throwing 45 pitches in a simulated game Saturday. He's been out with a strained left hamstring.

Manager Joe Maddon said Lester looked "very good" and the team will see how he feels before determining the next step. Maddon did not rule out a return for a three-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Wrigley Field that starts Tuesday.

Ronaldo plays key role in Juventus' 8th straight title

ROME (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo played a key role in the winning goal and Juventus beat Fiorentina 2-1 Saturday to clinch a record-extending eighth straight Serie A title.

It's the first time in Europe's five major leagues—Italy, England, Spain, Germany and France—that a club has won eight straight titles.

And it was a big relief for Juventus following its elimination by Ajax in the Champions League on Tuesday, after failing to clinch last weekend with a surprise loss at Spal.

"It was upsetting and negative on Tuesday," Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci said. "Today we turned our anger toward the pitch and transformed it into positive energy to achieve this goal."

Juventus needed only a point but quickly fell behind when Nikola Milenkovic took advantage of confusion inside the Bianconeri area to score for Fiorentina six minutes in.

However, Alex Sandro headed in from a corner for the equalizer and Ronaldo's cross from a sharp angle was then redirected in by Fiorentina defender German Pezzella either side of halftime.

Ronaldo, who joined Juventus for this season from Real Madrid, became the first player to win the English Premier League (with Manchester United), the Spanish league (with Madrid) and Serie A.

"It was a very good first season and I adapted well. We won the 'scudetto' and the Italian Super Cup, which is certainly not easy to achieve," Ronaldo said. "You can't win all the time. We felt that we could do more ... but only one side can win the Champions League.

"Next year is a new page, the fans all want it and so do we," Ronaldo said of the Champions League, adding that he's "1,000 percent" certain he will stay with Juventus for next season.

AP

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo , left, and Fiorentina's Kevin Mirallas fight for the ball during a Serie A soccer match at the Allianz stadium in Turin, Italy, Saturday, April 20, 2019. Juventus needs a draw against visiting Fiorentina to clinch a record-extending eighth straight Serie A title.

After the final whistle, Juventus players celebrated by forming a circle and jumping up and down clapping their hands. Then they drank champagne and some players invited their children out to take part in the festivities.

Juventus moved 20 points ahead of second-place Napoli, which has six games left.

It was Juventus' 35th title overall. However, the jumbo screens inside Allianz Stadium flashed No. 37 to include the 2005 and 2006 titles that were stripped in the Calciopoli match-fixing scandal.

The only other club in the top five European leagues that had won seven straight was Lyon in France from 2002-08.

The Juventus women's team also clinched the Italian title Saturday, with a 3-0 win at Hellas Verona in the final round of the season. It's the second consecutive title for the women's squad.

The men's team had to come from behind, as Milenkovic's goal was the earliest Juventus has conceded all season.

Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was lying on the ground in apparent pain following contact near the post when the ball bounced toward Milenkovic, who smashed it into the roof of the net.

Szczesny had his hand treated and had to stay attentive as Fiorentina kept on threatening with counterattacks.

Federico Chiesa, a reported transfer target for Juventus, hit the post from the edge of the area in the 34th.

Three minutes later, Sandro put Juventus in front. Since Sandro's Serie A debut in 2015, the left back has been directly involved in 23 goals (10 goals and 13 assists) — more than any other defender in the Italian league.

Still, there were more moments of concern for Juventus as Chiesa hit the crossbar two minutes before the break.

Order was restored in the second half as Ronaldo aimed his cross toward Federico Bernardeschi and Pezzella turned it into his own net as he attempted to intercept the pass.

BLUE

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linan was at the plate to bat for the fourth time and finally, the Marlins got the third out, but the damage had been done and the Blue Jays quickly wrapped up the one-sided game in the next inning with pitcher M.J. Sablan striking out the first three batters from the defending champions.

Sablan worked the mound in no relief and threw a one-hitter (a single from John Fred). The Blue Jays pitcher started his shift by fanning the Marlins' first three batters at the bottom of the first inning. Then in the second inning, with runners on second and third base, Sablan struck out Oliver Pauling for the third out. Earlier, Sablan tagged out at home leadoff batter Austin Camacho, while the Blue Jays pitcher fanned second batter Kyler Laniyo.

The Blue Jays ace, besides his steady performance on the mound, delivered four runs—two in the third inning. Randell Rogolifoi led the Blue Jays with his five runs, while Ethan Salalila and Dane Mangarero registered four apiece.

LEE

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sets, 6-3, 6-1, to bag the finals ticket at the top half of the draw. At the bottom half, Ryu also needed only two sets to march into the finals after ousting Isaac Heo, 6-0, 6-1. Heo ended up playing in the consolation game against Kim and the latter won, 6-1, 6-3, to join Lee and Ryu in the Top 3.

In other consolation matches, Gang Min Kim dominated Hyumin Cho, 6-0, 6-0, while Eugene Park edged out No. 4 Jun Wang, 7-6 (1), 7-5.

In the boys U18 singles, the favored Schorr emerged as the champion, as he was unbeaten in three games.

The reigning Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Student Athlete of the Year earned a perfect record in the round-robin contest and secured the division crown after slipping past Ji Min Woo in three sets. Schorr drew first blood, 6-1, but missed the sweep when Woo came back with a 4-6 triumph in the second set. Then in the deciding third set, Schorr reasserted his might over Woo for a 6-2 win.

Schorr and Woo held similar 2-0 records after last Saturday's matches, making their duel yesterday the title-deciding match. Woo downed Vincent Tudela, while Schorr prevailed against Andy Kim, 6-1, 6-0, in Week 1 of the tournament. Then on the second and final week, Schorr and Woo won via walkover against Tudela and Kim, respectively. Tudela after not playing last Friday, showed up at the AMP yesterday and rallied past Kim, 2-6, 6-0, 10-5, to clinch third place.

In another round-robin event, Riku Takahashi notched the boys U10 singles championship after earning an undefeated record. Kadokura first downed Riku Takahashi, 6-2, in Week 1 of the tournament and then blanked Kiwon Lee yesterday, 6-0, to rule the division. Lee finished second, as he earlier prevailed over Takahashi, 6-4.

Meanwhile, other winners in the tournament supported by DFS (title sponsor) Pacific Subsea, Triple J, and Marianas Fertility Clinic will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

ALEKSENKO

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group) and lorded it over against their teammates, fellow CNMI swimmers, and the representatives of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei to win the most outstanding athlete award in their category.

Dangol triumphed in all 12 events she competed in, starting off with the 400m freestyle swim (4:57.76). Her other races were 100m butterfly (1:11.31), 100m individual medley (1:14.07), 50m backstroke (31.66 seconds), 50m butterfly (31.40 seconds), 100m backstroke (1:10.51), 50m freestyle (29.07 seconds), open water swim (1K course/15:36), 200m and 400m medley relays, and 200m and 400m freestyle relays.

Aleksenko was also part of the relay team that won the four gold medals and ruled nine individual events: ocean swim (1K/15:24), 400m freestyle (4:37.72), 50m breaststroke (36.30 seconds), 100m butterfly (1:08.63), 100m IM (1:11.41), 100m freestyle (1:01.43), 200m breaststroke (2:54.97), 200m IM (2:32.48), and 50m freestyle (27.76 seconds).

Both Aleksenko and Dangol were thankful for the opportunity to finally race in an appropriate venue (National Swimming Pool in Koror, Palau) after losing the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi late last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, and Kean Pajarillaga pose for a group photo after taking the Top 3 places in the ocean swim event of the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ashley Dangol races in the 50m backstroke event of the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships.

"Swimming in a race with an actual diving block was super exciting. Seeing that we didn't practice in a competition pool, I was overjoyed to receive the MVP award. In the end, I'm happy that our team did really well. I'm super thankful to have our team, the PIC (Pacific Islands Club Saipan) pool, and our coach's dedication to keep this team going," said the 12-year-old Dangol.

"It was hard to practice after the Marpi pool closed. I've been practicing extra hard for future competitions like this one and I'm very thankful to my coach and Ms.Yuko (Kimura), my mom (Yulia), and my teammates for motivating me. Also, I'm very thankful for this opportunity to represent the CNMI," Aleksenko said.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura was not surprised to see Aleksenko and Dangol dominate the competition in Palau because they've been to other high-level tournaments and also performed well. Kimura added in next year's Micronesian Swimming Championships, the two outstanding swimmers will move up to the star division and he encourages them to do well in the higher age group, too.

Nadal stunned in Monte Carlo semifinals

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Bucks, Rockets near series sweep

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Lee, Schorr deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked players Sean Lee and Robbie Schorr did not disappoint, as they ruled their respective singles events in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sean Lee reaches for the ball during his title game against Sam Ryu in the boys U16 singles event in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Lee swept all his three opponents to take the boys U16 singles championship in Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's last local tournament for the 2018-2019 season. He clinched the division title following a 6-0, 6-4 victory over No. 2 Sam Ryu in yesterday's finale.

Earlier in the semifinals, Lee, who blanked Eugene Park in the opening week of the competition, eliminated No. 3 Andy Kim in straight

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Aleksenko, Dangol dominate Micronesian meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members Isaiah Aleksenko and Ashley Dangol have the medals to prove their dominance in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships.

Aleksenko earned 13 gold medals and Dangol had 12, as the two swimmers earned the most golds in the entire tournament, including the star division (over 13 age group) participants. The Tsunami Saipan bets raced in the future division (U12 age

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko, left, and Ashley Dangol pose with the medals and awards they won in the the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Palau early this month.

Blue Jays romp past Marlins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Blue Jays crushed the Kagman Marlins anew, 27-0, in the Minors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Blue Jays, who also routed the defending champions during the season-opening match, 18-5, were even deadlier in their second outing as they shut down the Marlins and earned the decision after only three innings.

A backbreaking 19-run top of the third inning allowed the Blue Jays to close out the game early. The Minors division is played in only four innings and the Blue Jays took the win via the 10-run mercy rule.

The Blue Jays collected one run after another in the pivotal top of the third inning after capitalizing on the Marlins' errors, especially from the mound. The Blue Jays scored eight runs off wild pitches and two players on their top of the order went at bat four times in the third inning alone and each made it home on three occasions, while two others batted and scored three times. David Apatang batted twice with his second at bat resulting to a two-run double and he also contributed two runs in the Blue Jays' juggernaut. Payton Pange-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Blue Jays players pay their respects to the CNMI flag as the Commonwealth anthem is played during the opening of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball early this month at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.